Edgardo Espiritu to join GMA party as treasurer

STORY ON PAGE A2

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

CHRISTENSEN

- 'Spider-Man' hurtles past $200-M mark
- Hayden Christensen, new Darth Vader-to-be

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Saturday, May 18, 2002 ★ 78 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 159 P15

OPEN season for campaigning, or so it's beginning to look from President Macapagal's increasingly frequent appearances in Metro Manila and all over the country wherever she can reach out to the most number of people. On Friday, she works a crowd in Olongapo City where she distributes bags of goodies and school supplies for street children and feeds (at right) pre-school children at the Subic Elementary School.

VAL HANDUMON

Hibernating, not hiding

Brod says Cardeño won't surface till Ping is president

By Martin P. Marfil, Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

SUPT. RAFAEL CARDEÑO, alleged mastermind in the killing of Baron Cervantes, is merely "hibernating" and may surface when a new administration not adversarial to him takes over the reins of government, his brother yesterday said.

"He told me that he would be hibernating, not hiding, as he believed that he would not get justice under this administration," said lawyer Reynaldo Cardeño, who claimed to have talked to his younger brother the other night.

"He'll probably surface if Ping (Sen. Panfilo Lacson) becomes president. That is a big if," he said half in jest.

Police are hunting down Cardeño after ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, who confessed to shooting Cervantes, a self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers' Union, tagged Cardeño as the mastermind.

Mostrales, a member of the Guardians Brotherhood Association Inc., a fraternity of military and police officers, was arrested in Pangasinan last Saturday. An alleged accomplice, Jaime Centeno, was arrested in Antipolo City on Tuesday night.

Mostrales told investigators that Cardeño, chair of YOU, wanted Cervantes killed because Cervantes was a liability to the organization. Cervantes, who was gunned down in front of a convenience store in Las Piñas on the night of Dec. 31 last year, had linked YOU to a destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

Cervantes had also linked Cardeño to anomalies at the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Cardeño fears coming out in the open as police have yet to charge him in court, according to his brother.

Reynaldo said that once a case was filed in court the judge would deter-

HIBERNATING/A18

MARCOS MILLIONS

Escrow funds merely remnant of 1 account

By Donna S. Cueto

(Seventh of a series)

ONE fund transfer made by the Marcoses just before a Swiss court issued a freeze order on their assets in 1986 involved at least $50 million.

The money was moved from Avertina Foundation to Hibiscus AG on March 11, 1986, two weeks before the Swiss issued the freeze order, Dr. David Chaikin, an Australian anti-money laundering expert, said in an executive summary he submitted to Malacañang.

Curiously, Swiss authorities have not frozen Hibiscus funds coming from Marcos-linked foundations. Here's another twist. Hibiscus, a Swiss company, is being audited by KPMG Fides Peat Zurich, according to Swiss corporate records provided the INQUIRER.

The Liechtenstein-based Avertina, whose funds were owned by the Marcoses, was one of the five foundations covered by the Swiss freeze order on March 24, 1986. Other foundations covered by the order were the Panama-based Aguamina Corp., Maler Foundation, and two more Liechtenstein foundations—Palmy and Vibur.

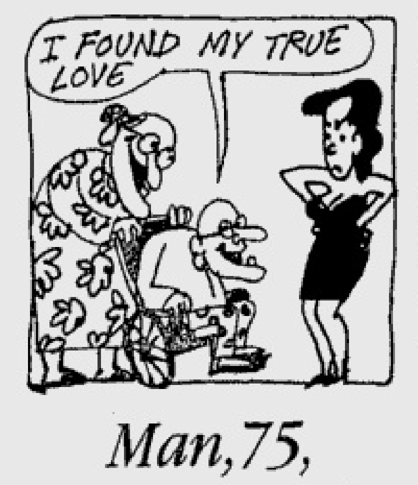
What remained of the Avertina funds on the day the Swiss order was issued was frozen. After the Philippine government obtained a favorable decision from the Swiss Federal Court, the funds were transferred to an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank in 1998.

As of Jan. 31, 1999, Avertina had $391.2 million constituting almost 70 percent of the PNB escrow funds then placed at $567.2 million.

On the day $50 million was transferred from Avertina to Hibiscus, smaller sums of money (DM500,000 and CH360,000) were transferred from Palmy Foundation to Hibiscus, according to Chaikin.

He said Swiss corporate records showed that Josef Dorig, who was identified as working in 1986 with Fides Trust, was vice president of Hibiscus.

ESCROW/A18


I FOUND MY TRUE LOVE

Man, 75, deserts bride after 2 days

LONDON—A 75-year-old British pensioner deserted his 23-year-old wife just two days after they married, The Sun newspaper reported Wednesday.

Laura Griffiths managed to contact her wheelchair-bound husband Richard by phone, but he appeared to be with another woman, the British tabloid said.

Laura told the paper: "He handed the phone to some girl I

MAN/A4

Joker blames Congress for power mess

By Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño

LOOK who's talking.

Maverick Sen. Joker Arroyo chided his fellow legislators yesterday for their approach to the controversial power issue, saying Congress was to blame for the current mess.

The Senate, Arroyo said, cannot summon former President Fidel Ramos to shed light on the negotiated contracts granted to independent power producers because this was a power Congress itself granted to the former Chief Executive.

"Ramos can refuse to appear, but he can also appear and turn the tables on the Senate and tell them, 'Hey guys, in the face of the power crisis at the time, Congress rushed the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993 that gave the emergency powers to the President to enter into negotiated contracts for the construction, repair, rehabilitation, improvement and maintenance of power plants, projects and facilities'," Arroyo said.

JOKER/A4

'Coup not illegal if it succeeds'

By Rocky Nazareno, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

THE CRIME of coup d'etat ceased to exist the moment Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency was legitimized by the Supreme Court, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Commenting on the complaint filed Thursday by five media personalities against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva and others for playing key roles in Joseph Estrada's ouster, Arroyo said: "A coup d'etat can only be illegal if it does not succeed."

The complainants, all supporters of the ousted President, filed the case with the Office of the Ombudsman and called it "a test case" to determine if "our laws are sufficient deterrents for criminals in the military establishment" and if "our justice system indeed works."

But Arroyo told the INQUIRER that "there cannot be a test case when there is no case to talk about."

COUP/A18

6 more Pinoy priests linked to US sex scandal

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The six other priests involved in a 1980s sex scandal in a Los Angeles diocese are all Filipinos.

They attended the same seminary here before they migrated to the United States and reunited with Fr. Santiago Tamayo Jr., now deceased, who admitted to have been sexually involved with a Mexican woman then studying to be a nun.

Father Tamayo's younger brother, Dr. Eduardo Tamayo, told the INQUIRER that his siblings were acquainted with the six other priests, having met them when they were all studying in the seminary.

"Everyone knows everybody in the seminary," he said. "It is such a small place. My brother's place (in Los Ange-

6 MORE/A18

New US Pacific commander's visit stresses RP role in war vs terror

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two weeks into his job, the new commander in chief of the US Pacific Command (cincpac) visited the American troops deployed here and in Basilan for the Balikatan military exercises—once more underscoring the importance the United States placed on Philippine participation in the international campaign against terror.

The Philippines was Adm. Thomas Fargo's second stop in his first official trip to Washington's key allies in the region, after Japan. Fargo replaced Adm. Dennis Blair on May 2 as head of the largest US military command—responsible for some 308,000 US military personnel in an area of responsibility covering more than half the globe and 43 countries.

The Pacific Command, based in Camp Smith in Hawaii, stretches from the US West Coast to Madagascar, in Africa.

Fargo, the former commander of the US Pacific Fleet, arrived Thursday night in Manila, at about the same time the Armed Forces admitted a major attempt to rescue American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse

NEW/A5

FARGO: Here for Burnhams' rescue?

Second FRONT PAGE

BUHAY ULI ANG KAMPI!

GMA party recruits Espiritu

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is tapping former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu to be treasurer of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, an administration source yesterday said.

The source, who asked not to be named, said Espiritu's recruitment was part of the revitalization of Kampi under the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal publicist, Dante Ang.

Under the political design drawn up by the Palace, Kampi will "provide the party apparatus for politicians who want to support President Macapagal but who are averse to joining the ruling Lakas-NUCD."

"There are political leaders who are for the President but who do not want to be under Lakas," the source said.

Ms Macapagal had announced earlier that she would be assuming the chairmanship of Lakas, the dominant political party in the country.

Kampi leaders will hold an organizational meeting at 10 a.m. today at the Makati residence of party founder, former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

The meeting will formalize Ang's assumption of the Kampi presidency, and the appointment of Cojuangco's wife, Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco's, as party chair.

Former Rizal congressman Emigdio "Ding" Tanjuatco will stay as Kampi secretary general.

In an interview Thursday, Tanjuatco said Kampi is committed to supporting President Macapagal's election bid in 2004.

The administration source said that while Kampi had yet to formalize its reorganization, it has secured commitments from a number of politicians to join the party.

The source said Kampi will reveal the names of its new recruits in the coming weeks.

Espiritu, who was finance secretary during the abbreviated term of President Joseph Estrada, is no stranger to party fund-raising.

He played a key role in the failed presidential bid of the late former speaker, Ramon Mitra, in 1992.

He has extensive experience in the business sector, having been, among other things, chair of Westmont Investment Corp. and chief executive officer of Westmont Bank.

He was also chair of the Philippine National Bank, the National Power Corp. and the Philippine National Construction Corp.

Espiritu also owned minority shares in the Philippine Daily Inquirer before he joined the Estrada administration in 1998.

But what he is probably best remembered for today was the courageous stand he took in testifying against Estrada during the latter's impeachment trial in December 2000.

Espiritu had described how he came to learn that Estrada was allegedly involved in stock manipulations that threatened the collapse of the stock market and how he saw known smugglers at Malacañang functions who turned out to be Estrada's friends.

Gas prices raised again

By R. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell, TotalFinaElf and Eastern Petroleum Corp. yesterday announced increases in gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 39 centavos per liter due to the continued rise of international oil prices.

TotalFinaElf was the first to announce a price hike to take effect at noon today, while Pilipinas Shell increased prices at 10 last night.

Eastern Petroleum said its price hike would take effect at midnight tonight.

Other oil firms like Petron, Caltex, Seaoil and Flying V said they have not decided if they will follow suit.

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell corporate communications manager, said in a telephone interview the 39-centavo hike was "very much way below" an earlier projection of a 56-centavo to P1 per liter increase in May.

Kanapi said, "This is because we are still monitoring international crude prices, which are very volatile."

He said if crude prices stay below $25 per barrel, Pilipinas Shell might have no need to adjust prices again this month.

"If this happens, we could probably delay additional increases till June," Kanapi said.

TotalFinaElf said the rise in prices of imported finished oil products prompted it to raise its prices.

Rona Quejada, TotalFinaElf corporate affairs manager, said in a statement that prices posted in the Mean of Platts Singapore—an index of pricing for refined oil products in the region—started their steep climb in February.

15 killed in Mindoro clashes, says rights group

Another report says 5 rebels shot dead

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE HUMAN rights group Tanggol Karapatan said at least 15 civilians have been killed as a result of continuous military operations that began Thursday morning around Naujan town in Oriental Mindoro.

Nancy Rada, Karapatan spokesperson, said her group was able to recover only two bodies, "since the military cordoned off the area from the media and human rights group members." Most of the victims were from Barangay Caramaguit in Naujan.

Rada said that aside from the 15 civilian casualties, at least three suspected members of the New People's Army were killed in the military operations.

She identified one of them as Maricel Dalisay, a former student at STI Computer College and a resident of Barangay Maria Concepcion, Socorro town.

The Associated Press reported five NPA rebels had been killed but it did not mention anything about civilian casualties.

Rada said if the media and human rights activists were not allowed to enter the area, "more innocent civilians might be added to the growing list of victims."

She said an undetermined number of civilians were wounded in the operations.

"Most of the civilians were victims of military bombing. From early morning to past noon, the military bombarded Caramaguit with howitzers," she said.

"After the bombing, they resumed ground operations in the area," she added.

She said the operations, staged by the 2nd Scout Ranger Co., have spilled over to Barangays Comunal and Baluingayo in Calapan City.

The INQUIRER tried, but failed, to contact Col. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 204th Infantry Battalion based in Oriental Mindoro, to get the military's side.

But in an earlier interview, Palparan denied the military had used heavy artillery to flush out the rebels.

"The artillery unit is on standby, but we're not using it because the NPA could be overcome with firearms," Palparan told the INQUIRER yesterday morning.

In Lucena City, the Southern Luzon Command confirmed that two suspected NPA members had been killed in three separate encounters with government troops Thursday in Naujan.

Maj. Jose Broso, chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Group in Southern Luzon, said a platoon of soldiers led by a 2nd Lt. Malcom encountered at least 30 heavily armed rebels while on patrol at around 4 p.m. in Caramaguit.

After a short exchange of gunfire, the rebels scampered in different directions, Broso said.

About 15 of the escaping rebels then ran into another group of patrolling soldiers led by a Lt. Rafael nearby.

Government forces also chanced upon another 10 fleeing rebels northwest of Naujan.

No casualties were reported on the government side, except for the wounding of a Pvt. Ramos.

With an AP report

Villanueva bows out from military today

By Martin P. Marfil

ARMED Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, credited with breaking the backs of the New People's Army in Northern Luzon and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao, bows out today from the military service.

In ceremonies set at 10 a.m. at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Villanueva will turn over the AFP colors to former Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

A native of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, Villanueva was born on May 20, 1946, making him 56 years old on Monday, the age of retirement for military officers. Villanueva graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1968.

Villanueva spent his 38 years in the military service commanding field artillery units before rising to battalion commander, brigade commander, then division and area commander.

He has received the Gold Cross, several Distinguished Service Stars, Bronze Crosses, Military Merit Medals and Military Commendation Medals.

He received a Distinguished Service Star for breaking the back of the NPA in Northern Luzon when he was commander of the 503rd Brigade in Kalinga-Apayao and Cagayan Valley.

Villanueva was awarded the Gold Cross, according to AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, after his units in the Southern Command in Mindanao captured several MILF camps one after the other.

"Another one of his achievements was the Army Literacy Patrol System which is still being utilized," Mabanta said.

Under this program, soldiers conduct classes and teach residents of far-flung barrios how to read, write and do simple math.

Cimatu, who is the 29th AFP chief of staff, graduated from the PMA in 1970.

He was a young lieutenant at the height of the insurgency movement in the '70s, rising through the ranks to battalion commander in Aklan in the late '80s.

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Pagasa says wet season just around the corner

By G. Lacuarta

THE ISOLATED rainshowers that refreshed portions of Metro Manila's blistering landscape last Thursday came later than expected, but the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) says this could mean the wet season is just around the corner.

Ellaquiam Adug, chief of the Pagasa weather branch, said the rains should have come as early as the last week of April, becoming more frequent toward at the end of the May.

By now isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms should be as frequent as twice a week. "The expected rains did not come," Adug said.

This was one of the reasons the Pagasa has given for rising temperatures, which in Metro Manila peaked at 37.5 degrees Celsius last May 13, as recorded at the Pagasa Science Garden in Quezon City. Nationwide, the highest temperature recorded this year so far is 40.4 degrees on May 11, in Cabanatuan City.

Adug said Thursday's rainshowers in parts of the metropolis were associated with isolated cloud developments over the area, mostly Makati and Pasig. Though not as strong as those that fell in Northern Luzon, the metro showers should be reason to rejoice, he said, as "they could signal the start of the rains."

The rainfall measured at the Pagasa Science Garden the other day was merely .3 mm, compared to 36 mm measured the same day in Laoag, Ilocos Sur.

Pagasa predicted more rainshowers and thunderstorms over Metro Manila last night.

At around 2 a.m. yesterday, a tropical storm was spotted at 1,760 km east of Bicol Region, with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center. It was moving west-northwest at 40 kph, and was not expected to affect any part of the country.

₱5B released to counter El Niño

GOVERNMENT has already released P5 billion this year for irrigation projects to mitigate the El Niño dry spell, Malacañang said yesterday.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said P5.1 billion, out of the P7-billion budget of the National Irrigation Administration this year, has already been released.

This includes the P220 million in savings generated by the economy measures President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered under Administrative Order No. 5.

The President ordered the savings released to repair irrigation systems damaged by typhoons, Boncodin said.

In a radio interview, the budget chief said another P1 billion under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Program would also be released.

She said the Department of Agriculture would use the fund exclusively for projects to combat the ill effects of El Niño.

Boncodin said government may also tap the National Calamity Fund to help areas badly hit by the dry season.

She also asked lawmakers to use part of their "pork barrel" for irrigation projects.

"We are also asking the local government units to set aside 20 percent of their internal revenue allotment for irrigation projects," she added.

World media group asks RP to protect journalists

AN INTERNATIONAL association of newspapers and editors Friday said it has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the murder of a journalist and protect the lives of other reporters in the Philippines.

Paris-based World Association of Newspapers and World Editors Forum said it sent a letter to Macapagal following the unsolved shooting Monday of broadcaster and community newspaper editor Edgar Damalerio, the second journalist to be killed in Mindanao this year. (*See related story on Page A16*)

"We respectfully remind you that it is the duty of the state to provide an environment in which journalists are able to carry out their professional duties without fear of attack and intimidation," the group said in their letter.

It said the group was concerned that Damalerio "might have been targeted because of his journalistic activities," noting "he had written numerous articles about corruption in political and police circles" in the South.

The letter urged Ms Macapagal "to ensure that a thorough investigation into the murder of Mr. Damalerio is held and that those responsible are swiftly brought to justice."

"We urge you to do everything in your power to protect journalists who are exercising their right to freedom of expression."

The association said it represents 18,000 publications in 100 countries.

On Wednesday the Paris-based press watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) also urged Philippine Interior Secretary Jose Lina to investigate the murder of Damalerio and three other journalists in the South over the last 17 months.

The Philippine Press Institute, the country's association of newspapers, said Damalerio was the 38th journalist killed in the Philippines since the mid-1980s.

It said not one of these killings had been solved. *AFP*

Jinggoy taken anew to Makati Med

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada's condition was declared stable, hours after he was rushed to the Makati Medical Center yesterday morning for "complications" arising from rectal bleeding.

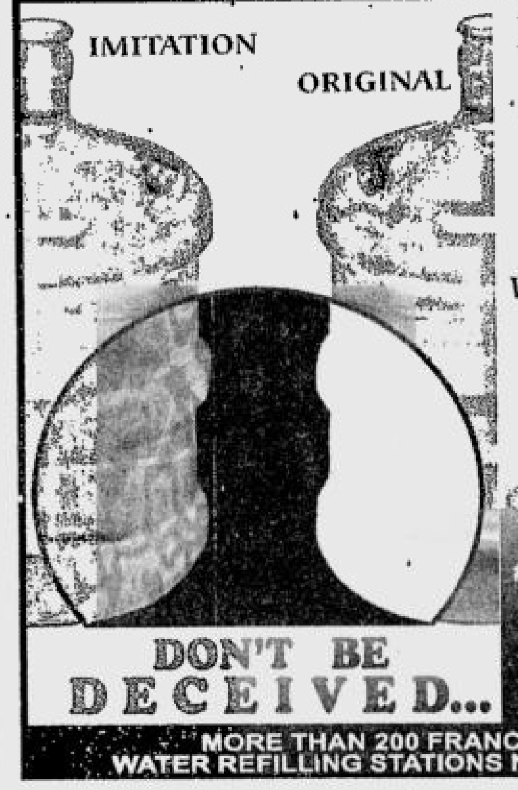
Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, Estrada's private physician, couldn't say how long his patient would be confined at the MMC. He said he was recommending a series of tests for the bleeding, which is also called "hematochezia."

Estrada was brought in from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where he is being held along with his father, the former president, in connection with plunder charges.

Hocson said the emergency was triggered by colonoscopy, a procedure his patient underwent the other day to determine the cause of the bleeding. The procedure involved inserting a tube into the stomach. When Jinggoy was injected with anesthesia, he started to vomit, accidentally taking gastric fluids into his lungs.

The younger Estrada is in Room 922 of the MMC, where a respirator and a portable x-ray machine have been installed. Four members of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force guard the room.

Sen. Loi Estrada yesterday asked the courts to reconsider an appeal for his son's transfer to another hospital. Since his detention just over a year ago, Jinggoy has been rushed four times to the Makati hospital for a recurring heart ailment.



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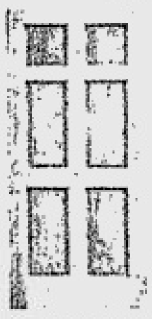

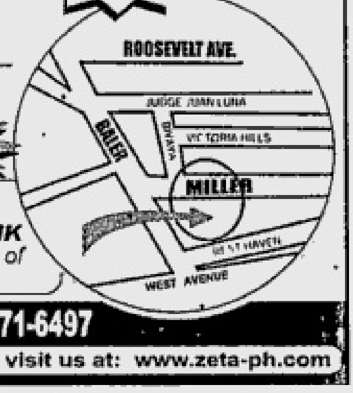

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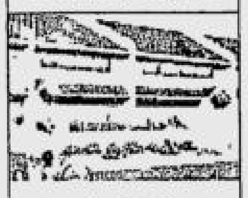

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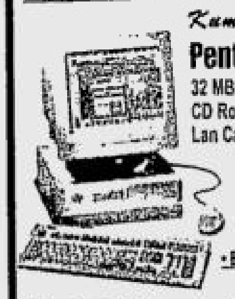

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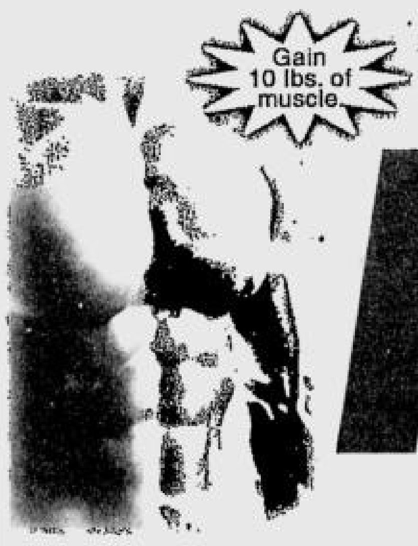

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Gov't workers can now get half of Christmas bonuses

By Carlito Pablo

GOOD news for the more than one million workers in government!

State employees can now receive one-half of their year-end bonus and cash gift to supplement their expenses in connection with the opening of the school year this June.

The Department of Budget and Management yesterday said that it had released the funds to cover the payment of these benefits which should be given not later than May 31.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the DBM has included the payment of the mid-year bonus amounting to P8.4 billion in the second quarter fund releases to government agencies.

Boncodin said the fund release was made with the authority of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"In previous years, the DBM usually released a separate notice of cash allocation (NCA) for the payment of mid-year benefits. Now we have included the funds for this purpose in the release of second quarter regular operating requirements of agencies," Boncodin said in an official DBM statement.

Boncodin said the remaining half of the year-end bonus and cash gift will be given to government employees between Nov. 15-30 this year.

Boncodin said that in the case of local government units, government financial institutions and government-owned and-controlled corporations, these agencies are authorized to pay the one-half of the year-end bonus and cash gift to their employees out of their respective local government or corporate funds.

Joker blames Congress for power mess

From page A1

During those dire times, Arroyo pointed out, "Congress effectively waylaid the time-honored public bidding . . . (and) hardly any safeguards were incorporated in the bill."

Ramos approved the negotiated contracts with 32 IPPs during his term.

Arroyo scored a Senate resolution filed by Sen. John Osmeña seeking to summon Ramos, noting that Osmeña was a sitting senator at the time the law was passed.

"If (summoning Ramos) were to be allowed, we might as well call senators and congressmen to explain why they voted for measures that turned out to be inimical to the interests of the people," Arroyo said.

In the House, however, the energy committee chair said the panel was likely to call for a vote as early as next week on a bill that seeks to amend last year's Power Reform Act, despite calls by some congressmen for more hearings on the measure.

Oversight committee

Arroyo noted that Congress even created an oversight committee composed of senators and congressmen "to monitor the implementation of the act and the exercise of the authority (granted to the President)."

The energy crisis law even required the President "to submit a quarterly report to Congress after its implementation," Arroyo said.

"And now the Senate is acting as if they are seeing these reports for the first time. Aghast at the figures they see," he said.

Arroyo, who has criticized Ramos both during his presidency and after, said the Senate would set the wrong precedent if it were to summon Ramos to the hearings on the controversial purchased power adjustment.

ARROYO: No test case, there's no case.

This "will tie the hands of the President in making decisions as seen fit at the time for fear that when he is no longer President, he can be called to explain his decisions."

After accusing Senate energy committee chair Renato Cayetano of deliberately shielding Ramos by refusing to summon him to the ongoing hearings, Osmeña filed another Senate resolution seeking a separate probe through the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises.

Cayetano's counterpart in the House, Rep. Alipio Badelles, said committee voting on House Bill No. 4741, which aims to reduce the PPA and provide for a "smooth" privatization of the National Power Corp., was likely next week.

"In our next meeting, most likely it will be a matter of voting by the members to approve or disapprove House Bill No. 4741 so that it can be brought to the plenary for extensive deliberations," Badelles said on Thursday.

He disputed claims by Akbayan Party-List Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales that the energy committee was trying to railroad the bill's approval, saying that his committee had "extensively devoted so much discussion and debate on this particular bill."

"The records would show that everybody was given their day to ask questions," he said.

Immediate approval

Rosales and opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico the other day blocked the energy committee from terminating deliberations on the bill, which seeks to reduce the PPA charge from P1.25 kwh to 40 centavos and to grant more powers to the Public Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the agency in charge of privatizing the NPC's assets.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, threw his support for the immediate approval of the House bill. "Our concern is that people are expecting Congress to come up with a solution to the high cost of electricity," Abad said on Thursday.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the bill was among a total of 13 that the Senate and House leadership intends to pass before Congress goes on break on June 6.

In Baguio City, former NPC employees and members of a militant group said they have gotten wind of a plan to turn over to an alleged Ramos crony one of the 12 stranded IPP contracts. The plot is allegedly to allow Malacañang's favored businessmen "to corner for themselves all profitable Napocor power plants, before these facilities are turned over for auction to the (PSALM)," a source from the Senate told the INQUIRER.

Voltaire Tupaz, secretary general of the Tongtongan ti Umili, said the Senate should start looking into the alleged plan to restore the 100-megawatt Binga Dam to businessman Catalino Tan, Ramos' friend.

Binga Dam, the P1.7-billion San Roque multipurpose dam project in Benguet and Pangasinan, and a micro-hydroelectric power facility owned by the Aboitiz family-led Luzon Hydroelectric Corp. in Bakun, Benguet, were listed among 12 IPP contracts whose "$3.975-billion stranded contract costs" have been "absorbed" by PSALM, in the words of PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso.

Ramon Capsula, Bewu spokesperson and a councilman of Barangay Binga in Itogon, Benguet, said their leaders were persuaded by a son of Napocor acting president Rolando Quilala to lobby the state firm into allowing Tan to revive a rehabilitate-operate and lease contract of Binga Dam. Rabindranath Quilala, the NPC president's son, denied these charges as early as March.

Capsula and eight other members of the Barangay Binga council issued on Jan. 27, 2001 a resolution appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate Binga Dam. The resolution described Binga Dam as the "milking cow" of presidential cronies during the administrations of Ramos and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The resolution urged Ms Macapagal to "shun political considerations" and bar Tan from using Ramos' connections to revive the Binga Dam contract. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Man. . .

From page A1

had never spoken to before in my life. She told me I had married him for all the wrong reasons and hung up."

The jilted wife, who wheeled her groom down the aisle only last Friday, insisted she was not a "gold-digger" as it was her elderly husband who proposed marriage.

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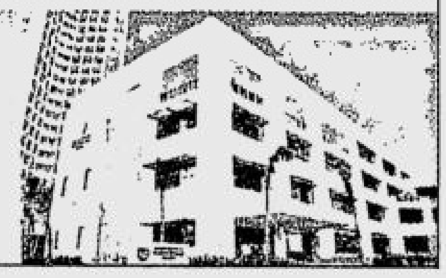

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New US Pacific commander's visit stresses RP role in war vs terror

From page A1

Ediborah Yap from the Abu Sayyaf was in the offing.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Basilan, said the plan would be executed anytime. He declined to give details but said it would surprise everybody, particularly those closely following the developments of the hostage crisis.

Aleo said the rescue plan would not involve the Americans.

"But if we need technical assistance such as medical evacuation at nighttime, we will request the help of the US Air Force and their aircraft," he said.

But Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, administrative chief of the US-RP Combined Information Bureau, brushed aside speculation that Fargo's visit had something to do with the rescue plan. Covarrubias said Fargo's purpose was to assess the performance of about 160 US troops providing the AFP with counterterrorism training.

Vital partner

Fargo, he said, also wanted to know what other equipment were needed for the Balikatan exercises. The US official, the third four-star military officer to visit the US troops participating in Balikatan, left Zamboanga yesterday afternoon without saying a word.

After meeting with senior AFP officials last night, Fargo is scheduled to call on President Macapagal-Arroyo today.

The United States has sent about 1,000 troops to Mactan, Zamboanga and Basilan as part of the global war on terrorism, its largest deployment after Afghanistan. About 350 of these soldiers are building bridges and roads on Basilan to improve access to the mountainous and forest-covered island.

"The Philippines is a vital, strategic partner in the region and we have a significant role here, assisting and advising the Armed Forces of the Philippines," said US military spokesperson Commander John Fleming.

"We are here at the invitation of the government and it's very important that as commander in chief US Pacific, that he comes out and meets with the senior leadership, both of the government as well as the military," Fleming said.

Some 150 men from the Philippine Air Force and the Army formed an honor guard in the scorching tropical heat as Fargo flew into this city's Edwin Andrews Air Base from Manila accompanied by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

Fargo was nominated by US President George W. Bush to become the 20th Cincpac on March 22. Blair retired this month, and will assume a post as senior fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, Va.

When Fargo was Pacific Fleet commander, he was responsible, according to a report in the Honolulu Advertiser, for "the world's largest combined Navy fleet command, encompassing 102 million square miles and more than 190 ships and submarines, 1,400 aircraft, 191,000 sailors and Marines, and 30,000 civilians."

The Pacific Fleet forms part of the Pacific Command. *With reports from Reuters, AP*

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The Grand Alumni Homecoming of Mapuans starts at 5:00 P.M. at Edsa Shangri-La's Isla Ballroom. Registration starts at 3:00 P.M. Valuable Major Raffle Prizes and "Showcases" will be given away during the Grand Raffle Draw. There will be Ballroom Dancing, KTV Singing, a Musical Extravaganza presentation and Buffet Dinner for all to enjoy.

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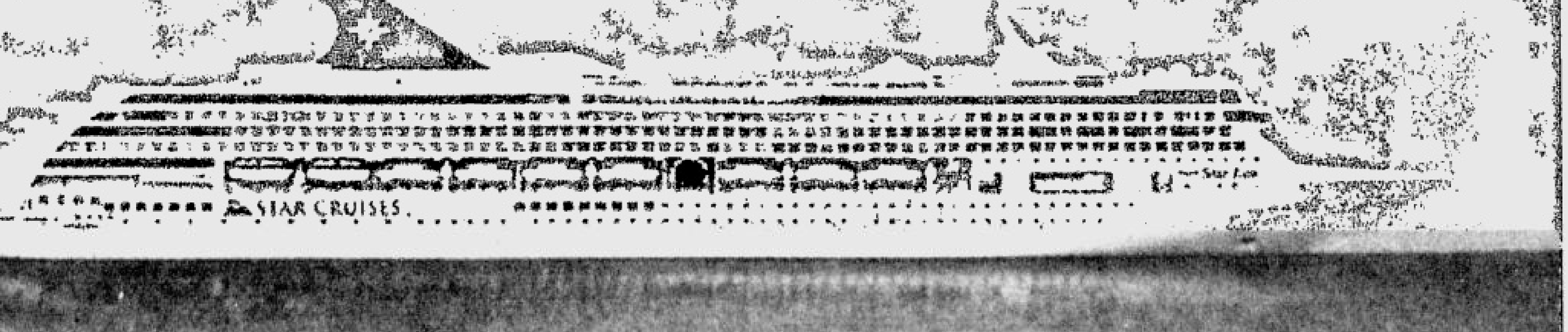

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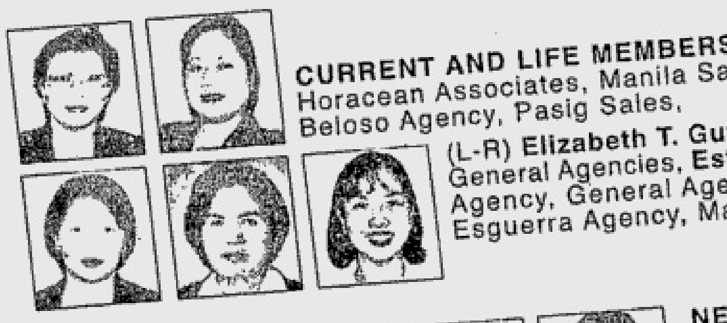

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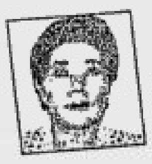

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Hilarious

EDITORIAL

"HILARIOUS" is the word that easily comes to mind to describe a complaint filed with the Ombudsman by a group of sympathizers of deposed President Joseph Estrada charging a cabal of generals with staging a mutiny when the armed forces withdrew support from his government in January 2001.

The complaint named Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes (then chief of staff) and Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva (then Army commander), among other people, of staging the coup.

The complainants include two newspaper publishers and journalists with known pro-Estrada leanings. Why the political losers themselves—i.e., the camarilla that was thrown out of power after the fall of the Estrada government—did not file the case, but instead used the journalists as surrogates, escapes immediate explanation.

The complainants themselves presented their action as something like exercising a citizen's civic responsibility. They described the action as "a test case, not only whether our laws are sufficient deterrents for criminals in the military establishment." For that act of civic consciousness, they are to be lauded for at least seeking a definition of a coup or mutiny as a criminal offense.

The complainants were pictured in the newspapers in revelry after filing the complaint, leaving questions in the public mind over whether they were serious or just doing it for fun.

They accused Reyes and his cohorts of violating a little-known law buried in the Revised Penal Code (thanks to an industrious legal researcher who discovered and rescued it from permanent obscurity) that is supposed to act as a deterrent to coups. The complaint branded the Jan. 21 severance of military support from the Estrada government as a coup. This echoes an interpretation held by Estrada supporters but vigorously challenged by Reyes and the military hierarchy. The focus on this issue regarding interpretation is what rescues the complaint from being the butt of ridicule.

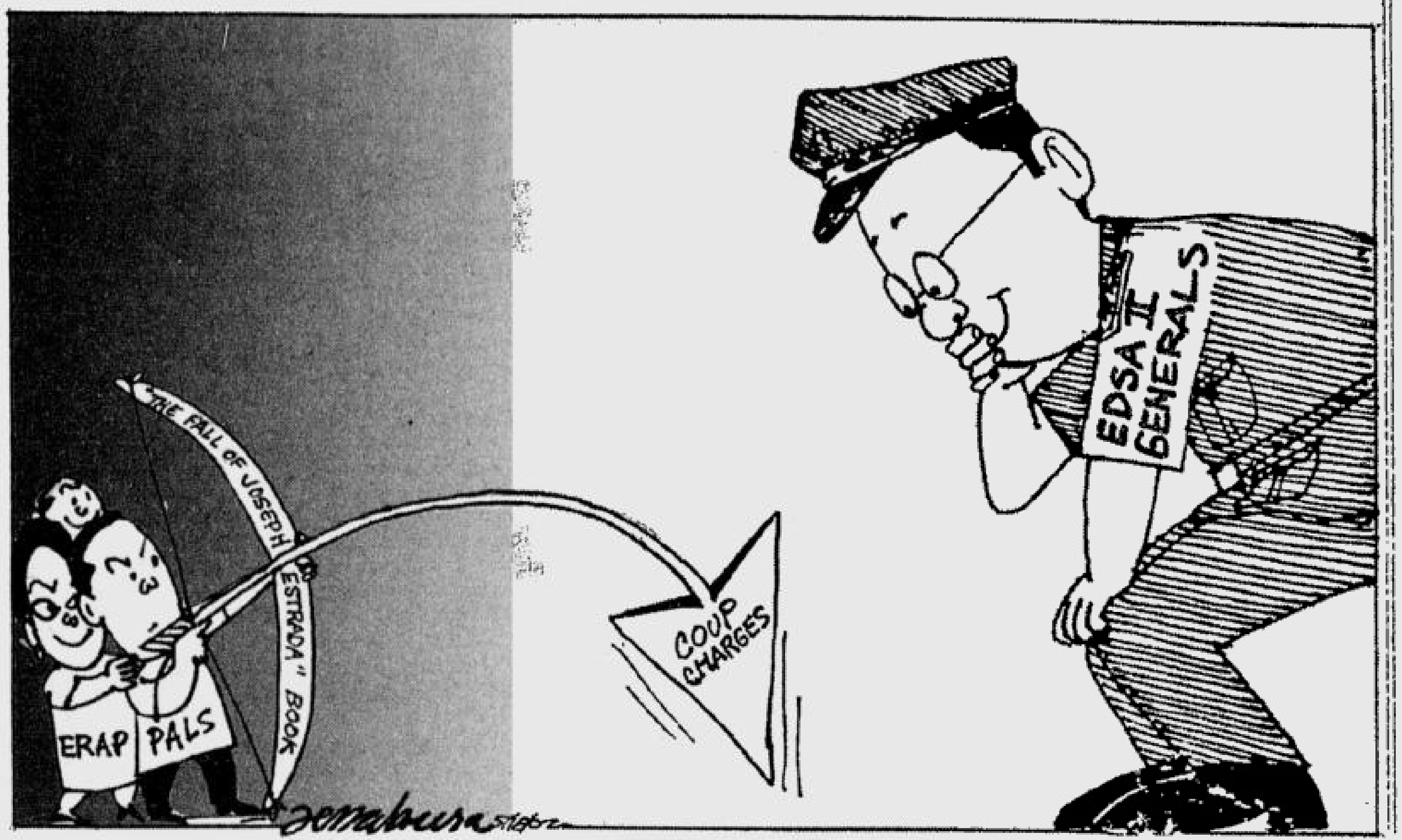
If the complainants had done some reading on the history of coups, they would have learned that no law can prevent a coup from taking place. Coups are staged when there is an imbalance in the power between civilian authority and military authority, and when there is widespread unrest inside the military against a regime. Any law that seeks to prevent a coup is absolutely useless and is a dead letter.

Whether or not the complaint should be dismissed as a nuisance depends of course on the assessment of the Ombudsman. What should be taken seriously, however, is the context in which Reyes decided to break ties with the Estrada government and brought the military hierarchy and the officer corps behind the withdrawal decision. As narrated in Amando Doronila's book, "The Fall of Estrada," Reyes agonized over the decision and engaged the officers in extensive consultation to determine a consensus supporting the withdrawal.

His main concern was that the country was moving toward violence and chaos as the constitutional crisis over Estrada's governance was getting out of hand. The choice facing him, as narrated in the Doronila book, was military intervention or allowing the country to slide into civil war. He decided for intervention that did not involve armed conflict. It came in the form of withdrawal of support from the government. The issue, therefore, is really whether this intervention constitutes mutiny or a coup. If, indeed, Reyes and cabal had planned a coup, they could have easily seized power and kept it to themselves. The fact is that the hierarchy just crossed over, without firing a shot or even wearing revolvers in their belts. They handed power to a civilian successor.

The main evidence of the complaint was the book's incisive narrative of what went on behind Reyes' withdrawal decision. The book was based on interviews with key players in the crisis. Its evidence has not been contradicted and its veracity has remained unchallenged.

During and after the crisis, it has been noted that newspaper accounts of the events have become the pivotal evidence on significant political developments—notably the Supreme Court's decision upholding the legitimacy of the successor government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The decision gave weight to the Angara Diary published in the INQUIRER. And now, the mutiny complaint rests on evidence supplied by the Doronila book. What the Supreme Court decision on the Macapagal legitimacy and the mutiny complaint highlight is that journalism has become the cutting edge in the writing of contemporary Philippine history.



Undeserved deference

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is significant that little was said in the Commonwealth Constitution about the Armed Forces of the Philippines. By contrast, the present Charter contains a noticeable number of provisions about them, including their description as "the protector of the people and the State."

The present Constitution underscores the change in the regard of our civilian government for the AFP. That regard is clearly deferential if not yet, God forbid, actually servile. Even the President of the Philippines takes special pains to curry favor with the generals with their powerful potential to dislodge the Republic from its civilian moorings.

When the United States imposed a military government on the Philippines in 1899, American libertarians loudly protested the exercise of civilian powers by the occupation forces. The result was the establishment of a civil government in 1901 that assumed control of the military. That normal relationship was maintained during the American regime and up to the first two decades of the Republic of the Philippines.

Things changed drastically, however, when Ferdinand Marcos became president in 1965. He must have been already planning even then to remain in power for life and with his keen and calculating mind understood the need to enlist the Armed Forces to support his ambitions. This requirement fueled his courtship of the military that has been followed by his successors and continues to this day.

The declaration of martial law in 1972 propelled the sudden predominance of the AFP in the scheme of the dictatorship. The soldiers never had it so good under the benign coddling of the new regime. Their power and perquisites increased, and so did their abuses. The Supreme Court, safe in its submissive sanctuary, closed its eyes to their contempt of individual liberties and condoned their wanton violation of the Bill of Rights.

Our experience during the Marcos despotism has left its mark on succeeding administrations. They too have pampered the military to insure its support. That craven policy cynically betrays the constitutional mandate that "civilian authority shall be supreme at all times over the military." President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should correct that anomaly by putting the Armed Forces in their proper place under her command.

The recent and current conduct of the Armed Forces has been far from praiseworthy. Their pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf and the other bandits in Mindanao has been as futile as of the will o' the wisp. People do not believe their denials of ransom payments and the sharing of the military brass in the outlaws' loot. The alleged rescues of certain victims, one even conveniently staged on video, are pure fiction. There is even talk that the investigation of a *cause célèbre* has been stopped because of the involvement of some generals.

Yet all the evasions and deceptions churned by the mimeograph machines of the Armed Forces are automatically authenticated and even lauded by Malacañang. The civilian government is even being increasingly militarized with the appointment of retired generals to civil positions regardless of their competence. The evident purpose is to reward them for their loyalty or, no less important, to neutralize their possible temptation to choose another leader.

It is true that the Armed Forces redeemed themselves at Edsa I by turning against Marcos, but we should not forget that they were only atoning for their sins during the dictatorship. Last year, the soldiers helped to oust Estrada and later protected Ms Macapagal, but let us also bear in mind that they could have instead supported Erap against Ms Macapagal if they felt their bread was buttered on that side. Note that it took them some time to feel where the wind was blowing before they decided to back the winner.

Our Armed Forces are sworn to obey their commander in chief, but their loyalty is not dictated by a code of honor. They have a flexible discipline based on the demands of partisan politics and their own personal agenda. For good or evil, the allegiance of our Armed Forces to the President depends, not on their respect for the Constitution, but on their own selfish persuasions. If push comes to shove, the civilian government, for all its constitutional ascendancy, must yield to the decisions, right or wrong, of the military.

The President recognizes the reality of this situation and, accordingly, handles the military with kid gloves. The highest official in the land may hold the mandate of the people, but it is the Armed Forces that wield the weapons of coercion. Their military might has bred in them an arrogance that flouts the democratic ethic and threatens our future and our freedom.

We should stop fawning on the Armed Forces as if they were the lifeblood of our race. They are a bugaboo that should not frighten our republican convictions. Let us not feed them the wrong idea that their physical strength gives them the absolute power to manipulate our country for their own dubious purposes. Heaven spare us from that terrible day when we shall again be reduced to a regimented nation condemned by our own obsequiousness to saluting another tyranny.

In clear contempt of Supreme Court order

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

HOW is it possible that a matter already resolved by the Supreme Court in a decision which has been declared final and executory, and recorded in the Book of Entries of Judgments—how is it possible that almost two years after that decision, it has still not been obeyed?

How is it possible that this matter is being litigated again, making a farce of a final and executory Supreme Court decision? Moreover, how is it possible that the Court of Appeals is participating in this farce, and has in fact issued a temporary restraining order on the execution of the Supreme Court's decision?

Impossible? But you will find, as you read on, that that is exactly what has happened.

What is more, it would also appear that the relitigation is part of a brazen plan by the loser to abuse the judicial process by a set of dilatory tactics that would delay for years the execution of the Supreme Court's final judgment. The word brazen is used advisedly—how else could one describe an open announcement, through e-mail, of such a plan?

The loser I am referring to is the International School Manila (ISM), the most expensive—close to half a million pesos per year in school fees—private subtertiary educational institution in the Philippines, which caters mostly to the foreign community.

The case it lost in the Supreme Court was brought against it by the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE), the union of mostly Filipino teachers who are "local hires," as distinguished from "foreign hires"—foreigners who are hired by the ISM from abroad.

The reader may recall the case: the Filipino teachers (in 1995) demanded salary parity with the foreign teachers hired abroad, whose salary rates were 25 percent higher than their local counterparts, aside from their housing, transportation, shipping costs, taxes and home leave travel allowances. The local hires did not begrudge the foreign hires those allowances, but drew the line at being paid lower salaries for the same work, and cried discrimination (in their own country at that).

The labor secretary (June 10, 1996) ruled against the teachers. Their motion for reconsideration was also denied (March 19,1997). Nothing daunted, they went to the Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court (2000) agreed with the teachers that indeed there was discrimination, and upheld the principle that employees should be given equal pay for work of equal value.

Its exact words were: **"The Orders of the Secretary of Labor and Employment dated June 10, 1996 and March 19, 1997, are hereby REVERSED and SET ASIDE insofar as they uphold the practice of respondent School of according foreign-hires higher salaries than local hires."** (Emphasis supplied).

That seems to be plain and simple English. Clear. Definite.

Clear enough, anyway, so that the ISM filed a partial motion for reconsideration, seeking to "reinstate the Orders of the Secretary of Labor dated June 10, 1996 and March 19." The Supreme Court denied this motion with **finality**.

I guess the school didn't understand the meaning of "with finality," because it filed a second motion for reconsideration, asking the Supreme Court to hear the case en banc.

Exercising utmost restraint, the Supreme Court did not hold the ISM in contempt for ignoring the finality of the court's denial—it merely denied the ISM's second motion. After the requisite period of time, on Dec. 20, 2000, the decision of the Supreme Court became final and executory.

The teachers filed a motion for the issuance of a writ of execution of the Supreme Court judgment before the labor secretary. After more legal skirmishes, the Supreme Court explicitly remanded to the labor secretary for appropriate action, the teachers' motion to direct the ISM to comply with the Supreme Court's judgment. After the labor secretary granted the writ, the ISM filed a motion for reconsideration.

The ISM has mounted a series of legal maneuvers, described by its superintendent, David Toze (in an e-mail letter to the parents dated March 6, 2002) thusly:

"In the event that our motion for reconsideration (of the writ of execution issued by the labor secretary) is denied, we would, as a matter of course, refer the issue first to the Court of Appeals and thence to the Supreme Court for final judgment some years down the road."

Applying these dilatory tactics is bad enough. What is worse is that in the process, the ISM is trying to make fools of the justice system, and has shown, time and again, its contempt for the Supreme Court's decision.

In the motion for reconsideration submitted to the labor secretary, the ISM prayed that she **"issue a new Order affirming the arbitral awards enumerated under the Orders dated 10 June 1996 and 19 March 1997"**—which means that it wanted her to reverse the Supreme Court's final and executory orders. For all of the ISM's previous attempts at resisting parity while appearing to respect the orders of the Supreme Court, the ISM makes clear its true intention by making a direct request to reverse the most unambiguous portion of the Supreme Court decision. Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas gave that prayer very short shrift.

Failing with the labor secretary, the ISM, as the Toze letter foretold, has brought the matter to the Court of Appeals—with the same prayer. And this time, the ISM seems to have struck gold, because instead of dismissing it outright and chastising it for requesting that a final and executory decision of the Supreme Court be reversed, the Court of Appeals issued a TRO.

How long will this farce last? Or will it end up being a tragedy?

The cutting edge

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

STAUNCH supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada have sued before the Ombudsman Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, outgoing Armed Forces Chief Diomedio Villanueva and retired Generals Fortunato Abat and Leo Alvez for the "crime of coup d'état" when they withheld their allegiance from Estrada and swung it to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The military's support for GMA was considered crucial to the success of Edsa II, but the complainants held that this was violative of RA 6968, passed by the Eighth Congress to punish coup plotters; they stressed that their suit is to prevent the civil government from being a perpetual hostage to the military.

The Erap supporters' move, however, is bound to meet with cynicism for it is no secret among the military that anti-Macapagal forces have tried even before May 1, 2001 to enlist the support of some military officers and personnel to move against the new regime through various means, including alleged attempts to pay them off in various amounts. The difference is that the military did not bite the bait against Ms Macapagal, doubtless because they realize that further destabilization would not benefit the country. But had Edsa III and attempts last month and this month succeeded, the Erap supporters would have crowned the mutineers with plum posts, not sue them.

* * *

One thing that has become evident is that the Erap supporters are now moving on various planes in an attempt to keep the Macapagal administration off-balance all the way to the 2004 elections. After recent attempts by the Erap camp to marshal forces failed to take off, the opposition now realizes their only hope to wrest control is through the elections, but it would be better to keep the administration off-keel. Thus, this new anti-military move before the Ombudsman is bound to be viewed in the same light as the move of Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson in the political plane, and efforts by their political allies in Congress to stir a number of controversies that put the administration in a bad light.

But apparently the Macapagal forces have wised up and realized that consolidation is the only way to meet the opposition's challenge, and the recent acceptance by the President of the chairmanship of Lakas has to be viewed in this light. GMA has obviously realized that having a political base with some 79 congressional leaders, 50 governors and hundreds of mayors will give her a better head-start for the 2004 race than jump-starting her small Kampi party.

* * *

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, Lakas VP for international affairs, pointed out to this columnist that the offer of the party chairmanship was not new: it was offered to GMA after the 1998 elections but she turned it down as she had just joined the Estrada Cabinet; but she agreed to chair the party's executive committee. Lozada recounted at the recent political summit that Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Lakas chair, agreed about the need to lay to rest all speculations about GMA abandoning Lakas and forming a new party. JDV agreed to offer the party chairmanship to her which is only logical as she is the country's President. With her acceptance of this new post, said Lozada, there's no longer any question as to who will give the marching orders to the party's rank and file in the coming elections.

* * *

I welcomed the chance to recently sit down with the leaders of the electronics industry in a lunch hosted by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas as I learned so much about the strengths as well as the weaknesses of this nearly $22-billion industry here that counts with 715 companies employing nearly 45,000 highly trained Filipinos. The electronics industry here is but a part of the $1-trillion industry worldwide, and while the industry suffered a 35 percent global downturn last year, the local industry was affected only 20 percent and its leaders are looking forward to recovery this year. The electronics industry is the driver of our economy as it commands 70 percent of our total exports, but its leaders realize that so much can still be done for the local industry. For instance, they hope to attract support industries here that will give a value-added component to the products being locally manufactured, so that certain components need no longer be imported.

* * *

Joining the media were Norberto Viera, president of Texas Instruments; George Bobin, the outgoing GM of Philips Semi Conductors, Robin Martin, GM of Intel Philippines; Chit Ventura, Intel's regional public affairs manager, Francis Ferrer, who retired as president of Integrated Micro-electronics and is now business sector representative to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), and Ernie Santiago, executive director of the 180-member Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi). Earlier, on the dzRH program I co-host with Cecile Alvarez every Sunday at 9:15 p.m., we taped a one-hour dialogue with Ferrer, Santiago and Ventura on the contributions of the electronics industry to the Philippine economy.

One impressive lesson from our dialogue is that this high-tech industry prizes the culture of precision in turning out products of "zero-defect" and that obsolescence is a constant challenge. But even more impressive is that many of those assembling these products are our high school graduates, who undergo regular training amounting to 40 hours each year. The leaders emphasize that the Philippine economy's cutting edge in this keenly competitive industry is its highly trainable human resources, but they have to be honed constantly by education especially in Math, Science and English. Sadly, however, as the latest national achievement tests for elementary and high school students showed, our students faired poorly in these areas. ***(More later)***

The intention, not the material

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A DOCTOR wrote to me recently to share his views on church teachings on contraception and family planning, provoked by two columns I had written on a recent pastoral letter issued by Bishop Antonio Ledesma, S.J. The doctor, by the way, is nameless only because I deleted his e-mail from my mailbox before I could take down his name and address.

Fresh from a seminar on bioethics, the doctor (who is presumably Catholic) says "bishops and priests who seemed to believe that the right attitude of married couples toward family planning should be 'submission to God's will uncritically, even passively accepting each and every pregnancy' alludes to religious legalism. It is truly pious yet remiss of other important points."

And what are these "important points"? The doctor cites the need to use an approach called "prudential personalism," which seeks to determine the morality or immorality of an act based on "practical, goal seeking, situational or contextual" considerations. He says: "Morality is not simply a matter of obeying rules but of intelligently seeking appropriate, concrete behavior to achieve human, personal and communal goals."

The rightness or wrongness of human actions, the writer notes, could best be judged by asking ourselves these questions: (1) How does my action in its context contribute to my personal growth and that of my family and the community? (2) Will this act make me more truly human or less so? (3) Am I acting for the right goal of marriage? (4) Is this act an effective means to that goal? Is this act an appropriate means considering the circumstances and the circumstantial intention?

* * *

IT is not so much whether a family planning method uses a fabricated material (a latex condom or chemically mixed pills) or only involves "natural" acts (like abstention or withdrawal) that determines the rightness or wrongness of a method, says the doctor. Rather, it's the intention behind the act, so that even if a couple relies on the (unreliable) method of withdrawal but with the sole intention of preventing pregnancy, it "defiles the objective of marriage...and the intention is also contraceptive."

To him, "spacing of children" is not a euphemism for contraception because spacing "gives the couple the chance to generate a child, and whenever the couple's intention is to space the number of children with an attitude of being open to life, this makes this option morally permissible." However, if the use of contraception, even abstention, is for "hedonistic purposes like saving money to spend for luxuries or in order to deny family responsibilities," then the act is morally questionable.

Hmmm, I have points of contention I'd like to raise, but at least the doctor is willing to treat the matter with some subtlety and openness. More than I can say for some people.

* * *

REACTING to yesterday's column on the need for transparency even among Church officials is Therese Badoy, whose e-mail address is the Catholic Relief Services office in the Diocese of San Jose in California.

"Truly there is a need for transparency in the Church these days," Badoy writes. "Although I appreciate the value of prudence in cloaking certain decisions, I think in the light of the Catholic Church's present situation, transparency is most healing," she writes.

"Like you, I am hopeful that the collection basket will NOT be used as a source of income to resolve this unfortunate business venture. The Church has a moral responsibility to be good stewards of the gifts offered for its proper intention. It is not right to assign these offerings to cover up bad business decisions nor disgusting indiscretions of the clergy. I will accept that the institution is indeed composed of imperfect human beings but if such wheeling and dealing is inexcusable in civil or lay institutions then it is not too much to expect that the Church's moral standard to be equal—if not more virtuous than that of the corporate world.

"I encourage the parishioners to be more vigilant with these matters. Ask questions, request progress reports on these issues, embrace the problem in order to be part of its solution. Truly the Church is housed in the Institution but the spirit of God resides in the individual who doesn't stop trying to be honest. Perfection is not expected of us but perseverance is. With all its frailty, I will continue to embrace the Catholic faith and my criticism is borne out of love for it..."

Thanks to Lina Garcia for her "hurried" (but pithy!) comment after reading the column "Three Stories." Says Lina: "I guess pushing for family planning in the Philippines is like bearing the burden or punishment of Sisyphus. But myth aside, I believe in a good God, though. One who wouldn't punish women for wanting only the number of children they can raise decently (e.g., nurture, educate, etc.) What to do with pain in the—husbands is another story, don't you think?"

* * *

AND on to another story...

Binky Manalastas writes about a matter that may seem trivial to many, but is crucial to parents of young children, and to die-hard Star Wars fans. Why, she asks, are there "no available Star Wars toys in SM department stores or Toy Kingdom?" After watching "Episode II: Attack of the Clones" on the first day, they proceeded to the toy section for the merchandise tie-ins only to be disappointed.

I texted a source and he said Hasbro and Lego are the official distributors here. If there are less toys now, it's probably because the distributors must have lost money from the Episode I tie-ins. Or have the toy pirates eaten into this market, too?

'Costumbres Chinas de la muerte' (II)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

AT THE START of the ceremony each son takes a handful of earth and places it inside the coffin. After it is closed they kneel and bow before the guests to thank them for their help and presence. The eldest son takes the photo of his father and returns home in the company of his mother, the widow.

The two-year mourning period has begun. There are still many things to do and for a week or two the family cannot rest. Like the novenas of Filipinos, the Chinese have first a period of nine days when special ceremonies for the dead person are observed. During this time the women have to prepare a lot of food both for the deceased and his relatives. The banners are distributed among his female relations for them to make dresses.

There are four important dates during the mourning period. The first is the completion of the 49 days, the next of the hundred days, completing a year and finally the two years that end the mourning. Little by little the mourners return to their normal lives. The men, after 49 days, may shave and have a haircut and wear white shirts even if their trousers must still be black. The women can wear silk dresses instead of Indian head, use some makeup and visit their family and friends.

After a hundred days the mourners can now amuse themselves and attend parties. If they go to weddings or birthday parties they must wear white, blue or gray. The ceremonies of the four periods depend largely on the religion of the family of the dead person. These are generally observed in the same manner. The relatives of the dead have to remember the four important dates because the widow and her family are expected to bring food and fruits to the cemetery. If not, ill-will on the part of his family may result. Aside from food, the relatives must offer gold or silver paper money to the dead. This "money" is burned when the food is offered. The Chinese believe the dead don't have enough to eat in heaven which is the reason why the living have to continue sending offerings even after many years. Upon the interment, a large amount of personal things of the dead person such as his clothes, shoes, his favorite chair, his mattress and slippers are burned. Other belongings that cannot be burned such as his house, cars, money and suitcases are instead burned in effigy. An interesting aspect of this custom is that the objects that entertained him in life such as his pipe, playing cards, mahjongg tiles and his books are believed to accompany him on his journey by being burned. The ceremony of burning these objects ends with the mourning period. In ensuing anniversaries only paper money is burned. When a member of the family of the deceased whether male or female, wishes to marry, he or she must do so between the 49 and hundredth days of mourning. Otherwise, he or she will have to wait two years.

A bride who is in mourning has to remove her mourning clothes when she marries. On the other hand, a bride who marries into a family in mourning cannot wear bright colours such as red, pink, yellow or burgundy. She however, is not obliged to don black; she may wear blue, white or green dresses. The customs and ceremonies of her wedding remain the same even if naturally these are more muted.

The first anniversary of the death is celebrated *"en grande."* It may take place in his house or in the cemetery if the place is sufficiently large. All the women wear blue or grey instead of black and the men wear white. The rest of the ceremonies are the same as the previous ones.

The second anniversary marks the conclusion of the mourning period. The women and female children wear red and the men don vivid colors. The family of the deceased tenders a big feast and sends food and sweets to his relatives and friends. This anniversary has similar aspects as those of a wedding or a birthday. For example, red is the color of the day: the house of the deceased is decorated with red curtains, the same as the bedroom of newlyweds. The same lamps utilized as those in a wedding are given to each married son or daughter. This signifies that happiness comes after the period of mourning. Parents and friends are gifted with the same type of foods and sweets previously given them but with the novelty of a red material to make a dress. As is the custom, eggs and noodles are omnipresent.

The children of the deceased have to put in their share for all the expenses in the two years of mourning. On succeeding anniversaries they will take turns taking care of the expenses. Some siblings use part of their inheritance to honor their departed relatives. They pay for the pantheon (that sometimes cost a hundred or two hundred million pesos), the salary of the caretaker, the anniversary celebrations, the fiestas, gifts and many other things.

And thus, the Chinese customs herein described are transmitted from generation to generation. A young person may think that these lack feeling but are wary of discarding them for many reasons. They have learned enough from their parents to regard these customs as habits. Contact with their elders, intriguers and the gossipy, discourage them but they comply with tradition to avoid unpleasantness.

Tiresome jeepney rides

YOUNGBLOOD

Therese Pelias

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

ISA akong laman ng kalye. I am one among those who have to endlessly wait for a jeepney ride in the morning every day. In our place here in Cainta you have to schedule your day at least with one and a half hours allowance for waiting time on Imelda Avenue and for "traffic time" on the long stretch of Marcos Highway. You have to be pretty quick in the morning because when you get out past the right time, you'll end up either uselessly waving your forefinger in midair or settling for a teeny-weeny slot in the already jampacked jeepneys. Of course, I never take the second option anymore (although in desperation, sometimes I still do). All I'll get that way is a cramped leg and a crumpled morning and still be late for class. I have learned to relax and calm myself and count hours as if they were minutes. (Thank God, I don't have a 7:30 a.m. class!)

This worsening traffic condition is a good way to unlearn time management tips and a good way to exercise your muscles, too. You can exercise your feet a great deal by running after every jeep that seems to promise a nice seat, comfortable travel and a nice day ahead. And you, out of desperation, can forget all the good girl in you because a stout lady beside you is running after the same promise, too. And she simply won't budge even if she looks like a pig greedy for a seat.

There's a new alternative these days like the ride I took once which cost me P17.50 more than my usual P2.50 fare. Boy, was all the cold air from the air conditioner worth something or what! And to think the air is not even as cold as it is supposed to be inside these FX taxis. This just makes me wonder sometimes how come our population is growing so fast.

Where do all these people in these FX taxis come from anyway? Or did all the jeeps that used to carry them everywhere vanish without a trace?

The traffic almost everywhere is not any consolation. Actually our use of the term "traffic" is wrong because it is used in the wrong context. We use it to mean heavy traffic whereas what the word really denotes is the general flow of vehicles on any thoroughfare. But why burden yourself with uttering two syllables more when the traffic in almost any place is heavy anyway?

It is annoying that I have to face that every day. I feel a part of my life wasted as I stare past everything I can stare upon from the dirty shoes of the man in front of me to the classy bag of the girl by the *estribo* and even to the pleasing physical features of one guy or two. I bet you have also experienced that point of saturated interest inside a jeepney when it feels like a million years since you warmed your seat and you've got nothing else to do but pray that "thy green light come."

Of course, different people pass time in different ways. Some just stare and stare as if they haven't seen the scenery before. Some read pocketbooks, even comic books. Some even review for tests and quizzes in jeepneys. A student is actually the easiest person to recognize because he or she is the one with the book or notebook or any kind of paper that the seatmates would like to read, too. One queer person I rode with even did his Math homework with a calculator and a pencil to boot.

Who could ever forget the classic way of spending traffic time—dozing off? We actually have in our jeepneys not only portable libraries but also portable bedrooms. I bet you also have lots of interesting stories of people you rode with who sleep ever so comfortably in their corners of the jeepney. This sometimes makes me wonder how other people can show off their amusing sleeping habits in a crowd of 10 to 15 curious pairs of eyes. I'm not saying I don't sleep in jeepneys myself. I do, often out of a dire need to rest after burying my head in tons of paperwork the night before (and it is quite miraculous that I have not missed my jeepney stop yet). It's funny but traffic time can also provide us some minutes for rest and relaxation even if our taxing days don't seem to have room for that anymore.

But of course, don't forget that not everyone is an angel and sometimes people won't let you sleep in peace. Sexual harassment is something you dread to happen to you. So sit in the most decent position possible, careful that nothing provocative is exposed. And be on guard for suspicious looks, moves and glances. Remember that "classic" jeepney crimes have existed since the time of our parents and will perhaps be with us for a long time. So don't be silly and wear all the contents of your jewelry box. Neither should you sleep without guarding your bag, wallet or shades. One man I rode with who was seated by the *estribo* lost his Rayban to a gang of teenage snatchers while he was innocently dozing off one morning. He was weaning the shades at that.

Funny but life still goes on despite the hopelessly worsening traffic situation. We can endlessly tell all our tales of frustrations all we want. But none of our complaints or indignation and irritation can ease our morning jeepney rides. We can blame the government for not knowing the importance of time. When will they ever learn not to reconstruct the roads during the rainy season? Overpopulation can take the blame, too. Here in Cainta, subdivisions have rapidly mushroomed over the last 10 years that my family has been here. Maybe we can also point our fingers on our traffic authorities including even the lowly policeman whose presence can complicate the traffic rather than ease it.

The traffic light does it better—just pray no unexpected jellyfish comes to sabotage our power supply. But even that doesn't help. We all still have to wake up to crumpled mornings and run after tiresome jeepney rides.

Oh well, I guess I just have to accept that I am indeed a *laman ng kalye* as almost everyone else is...even that stout lady whom I can rob of a "good morning feeling" by being several pounds lighter than she is.

Therese Pelias, 26, is a teacher at Xavier School.

THEY SAID

President of all

"She is the leader of the nation and her constituency includes even the people who belong to the political opposition."

—Sen. Edgardo Angara, blaming the President for the current fractiousness in the country

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Fed up with empty promises

IN 1999 our group, the Philippines to the World Entertainment Foundation (PWEFI), organized a signature drive urging then President Joseph Estrada to declare 2000 as "The Year of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)." Ironically, the campaign opened our eyes to a sad reality, or should I say it validated what many observers, OFWs themselves included, have already perceived all along—that OFWs are indeed neglected, taken for granted, ignored or simply forgotten.

For one, Malacañang repeatedly ignored our request (made four months in advance) for a brief audience with then President Estrada just to hand over to him the signatures that we collected. It was even easier for people like Argentinean telenovela star Natalia Oreiro and Miss Universe first runner-up Miriam Quiambao to seek an appointment with him than it was for the very people who contribute so much to the general uplift of the Philippines.

After much lobbying and countless letters, e-mails and faxes to Malacañang, Estrada signed on Feb. 8, 2000 Presidential Proclamation No. 243, declaring 2000 as OFW year.

But the fact that it was signed well over a month into 2000 and only after our frantic calls to the Office of the President and last-minute follow-ups without let-up with Malacañang's Legislative Office and with the help of an intermediary at that (namely, The Filipino Channel's "The Global Filipino" program), only showed that the declaration lacked sincerity on the part of the government. Furthermore, the declaration proved to be somewhat hollow. Yes, Estrada announced special programs for OFWs but we never really saw their implementation. Also reported were planned OFW "cities" in Las Piñas and Cavite, but after the initial hype nothing about them was ever heard again. Likewise, a check I made very recently with the East Avenue Medical Center where a separate wing (touted then as the planned OFW Hospital) was supposed to have been built, revealed two things. One, it was not a separate wing as announced but merely the basement of the hospital. Two, the project did not push through because the hospital director during the negotiations had died—a very shallow reason to scrap the plan. Which only goes to show that they weren't really that keen on building an OFW "hospital."

During that special year, we were also hoping that the Absentee Voting Bill would finally be passed into law after hanging in the balance for more than a decade. In fact, we were expecting it to be the highlight of the OFW year. Although as early as 1998 our organization had already written former President Fidel Ramos about the bill, it was not until mid-2000 that we started a signature drive urging our lawmakers to turn the bill into a reality. While our own campaign did not prosper mainly because the impeachment proceedings against Estrada took precedence over all other issues, it eventually caught on with several Filipino community organizations around the world.

Today, OFWs are more determined than ever to see the Absentee Voting Bill—and the Dual Citizenship Bill—through. At the forefront of these worldwide campaigns is Empower (The Global Coalition for the Political Empowerment of Oversees Filipinos), a Web-based alliance of more than 100 Filipino organizations in the United States, Saudi Arabia, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Canada, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Japan, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Israel, Azerbaijan and the Philippines. Helping it out is Kakammpi, a local NGO concerned with migrant workers' affairs, which does the lobbying where it counts.

Our modern-day heroes are no longer taking things sitting down. They are sick and tired of promises and lip service. They want action and they want it now. They are fed up with being taken for granted. They are now asserting themselves and they now see to it that their collective voice is heard. And just in case you didn't know yet, there is now an OFW Bank, established by OFWs themselves led by the OFWNet Foundation, brought about perhaps by their repeated clamor (for the government to set up such a bank) which for years has remained unheeded, just like the clamor for absentee voting.

So you see, OFWs are now a force to reckon with and that is something that cannot and should not be ignored. I wonder what would happen if, in protest to the government's continuous neglect of OFWs and inaction on the bills, our overseas *kababayans* resort to drastic measures like, say, a remittance boycott by not sending their money anymore through legal means. Your guess is as good as mine.

With Congress adjourning its session on June 6, the millions of OFWs and their families and supporters are awaiting the enactment of the Absentee Voting Bill (and the Dual Citizenship Bill). As the son of a former OFW and as an ex-OFW myself, I call upon our lawmakers to finally make it possible for our countrymen abroad to participate in choosing our country's main officials who will manage the affairs that affect all aspects of our national and personal lives. Perennially denying them the right to vote is not only unlawful but is also a grave injustice.

If the government is genuinely sincere with the accolades and praise that it has been heaping on OFWs as today's modern heroes, if in true gratitude for their contribution to the national economy and to the country's international image it really sincerely wants to do something for all OFWs, then this is the best way for the government to turn words into something concrete.

Let this be your gift to them on Migrant Workers' Day on June 7.

Enact the Absentee Voting Bill! And the Dual Citizenship Bill!

—RHOEL RAYMUNDO MENDOZA, founding director, The Philippines to the World Entertainment Foundation Inc. (PWEFI), Mandaluyong City

Vested interests in Manila-Dubai opposition

ONCE again we see that hand of vested interests guiding the likes of Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin in distorting facts for their selfish agenda.

Their latest foray is to criticize our ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Amable R. Aguiluz III, for warning that our overseas Filipino workers face dire consequences should the postponement of the air talks for the Manila-Dubai route continue.

How can Aguiluz be working against the interest of the country for espousing a cause for the good of 150,000 OFWs in his jurisdiction? Since when was it a crime to place the welfare of Filipinos in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the millions of others in the Middle East who are suffering because of the lack of flights between Manila and Dubai?

If there is anyone deserving of adverse criticism, it is Ebdalin who appears to be working for the interest of a privately owned venture and not the 75 million Filipinos who stand to benefit from a more open access to the country.

This is the same Ebdalin who chaired the panel that unilaterally abrogated the Air Service Agreement (ASA) with Taiwan which resulted in the suffering of our OFWs there and the pullout of investors from our shores.

This is the same person who almost did the same with our largest tourism and trading partners like Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea, save for the efforts of gallant Filipinos who fought tooth and nail to stop this travesty.

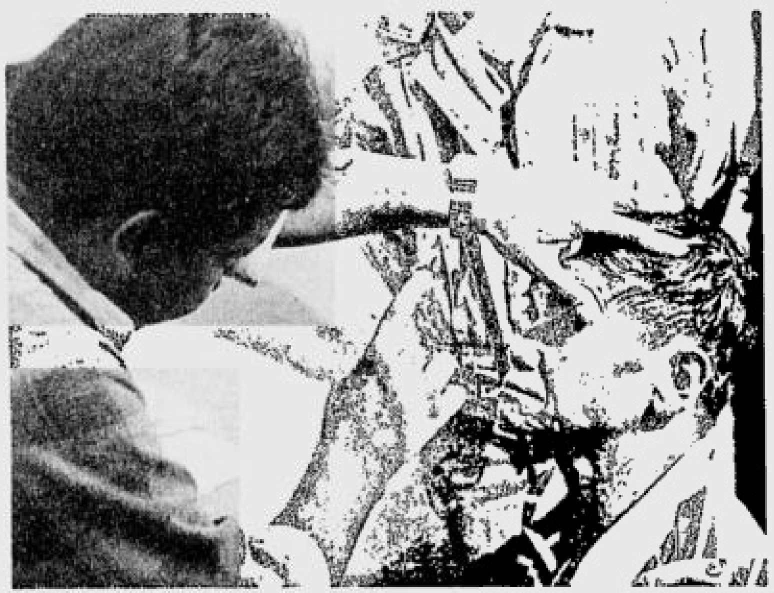
This is the same Ebdalin who proclaimed before both houses of Congress that he was tasked by former President Joseph Estrada to save Lucio Tan's investments in the Philippine Airlines and protect an airline which is widely perceived to be poorly managed even at the cost of the Philippine economy. He is lucky that he is not incarcerated like his master.

And now he demands to negotiate on behalf of the Filipino people?

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was right in removing him from the panel in the first place. Not only was his sitting in the Civil Aeronautics Board a clear violation of the constitutional provision against having two government posts, his presence there worked against the national interest.

As for Aguiluz, we only hope that he sees these news reports for what they are—indicators of a system gone haywire—and pray that he does not get discouraged by the lunacy permeating his home office.

—NARZALINA LIM, chair, MILA ABAD, president, Freedom to Fly Coalition



Potential for doing harm

I AM writing on behalf of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) in response to a letter published in your paper last May 8 from Josef de Ubaldo, D.Sc. I would also like to explain in a bit more detail why we have been compelled to embark on an advertising campaign to warn our countrymen about the dangers of entrusting their health to the method of diagnosis known as iridology as it is practiced in our country today. The unfortunate mushrooming of so-called "iridologists" has resulted in a growing number of patients who have been medically mismanaged, leading to devastating economic and health consequences for these hapless individuals.

While iridology, or "iridodiagnosis," had been touted by some in the past as "one of the most valuable diagnostic tools of the naturopath," latest scientific evidence based on an extensive systematic review of iridology has shown that "iridology is not a useful diagnostic tool and that it has the potential for doing damage in economic and health terms." This is the very clear and definite conclusion from scientific papers published in both medical as well as alternative medicine journals in the last four years.

One particularly powerful study is titled "Iridology: A Systematic Review" from the scientific journal Research in Complementary Medicine (1999; 6:7-9). This was written by E. Ernst from the Department of Complementary Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Exeter, United Kingdom. The term "complementary medicine," for those unfamiliar with it, is now the more appropriate and acceptable term for what we also know as "alternative medicine." This paper reviewed all the methodologically sound scientific studies published about iridology around the world, in all languages, and such a review could only reach one conclusion. Iridology is not a useful diagnostic tool. The same paper went on to say that "patients and therapists should be discouraged from using iridology."

Iridology's potential for doing harm in both economic and health terms has definitely materialized in the many patients we have encountered whose proper treatment was delayed or worse, withdrawn altogether, by persons practicing this "diagnostic tool." As a result, these victims were deprived of proper and timely treatment, leading to various tragedies ranging from the permanent loss of vision to the loss of lives. Furthermore, these patients had no legal recourse, because unlike other health-related professions the practice of iridology is not governed by any professional regulatory board.

If some persons choose to practice a "diagnostic method" that science and time have proven ineffective, then the least our government should do is regulate its practice in order to protect our people from its potential hazards. Some may argue that iridology is practiced in the United States and Europe. And so it is. But its practice is regulated. And even trained naturopaths in these continents who used to believe in this method now view it with extreme caution, if not skepticism.

As healers, we are not against complementary or alternative medicine. Many of us use various forms of complementary medicine, including prayer, in our medical practice. As professionals, it is not our intention to deprive any group of people of their livelihood. As physicians and responsible citizens, however, we are compelled by our sense of duty and our Hippocratic oath to bring this matter to public attention. We will also do our utmost to urge government to instill measures to protect our people against health scams that prey on desperation and ignorance.

Anyone who wishes to have more information on the truths and myths about iridology may send an e-mail to the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO): pao@pao.org.ph or at the address below; or visit the following websites: Quackwatch Home Page; and Illusions in Health Care Home Page (confessions of a former iridologist).

—MA. DOMINGA B. PADILLA, MD, DPBO, chair, committee of public information, Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, 3/F Philippine College of Surgeons Bldg., 992 North Edsa, 1105 Quezon City

No irregularities in Davao airport bidding

IN REFERENCE to the "On Target" column of Ramon Tulfo dated May 7, 2002, the Air Transportation Office would like to take this opportunity to refute some of the items mentioned.

1. According to an ADB letter to Ildefonso Patdu, Davao airport project manager, signed by Patrick Giraud, in their review of the bid evaluation report (BER), while international shopping procedure was followed, the instructions to bidders were inadequate resulting in the inclusion by the bidders of a number of additional/optional items which were not required. Some bidders did not clearly indicate their total price. Therefore, the bid prices were calculated based on the bidders' proposed item rates. However, it appears that these calculated bid prices are incorrect as they did not reflect the item rates as listed in the bids. Due to this error, the comparative positions of the two lowest bidders (ASII and NAVIA) changed. ASII was initially the recommended successful bidder, but the final BER resulted in NAVIA being the lowest bidder based on an evaluated bid price net of spare parts and shelter cost.

2. While it is true that ASII ILS was previously installed at the Davao airport, this equipment failed to pass the commissioning flight-check conducted after it was installed. The ASII ILS was never commissioned.

3. The ATO is not delaying the project. The ATO never requested a rebidding of the project. It was the ADB who recommended a rebidding so that other bidders can participate.

The only concern of this office is to be able to obtain the best available equipment since this project is a loan and not a grant in aid, which will be paid by the Filipino people.

—M/GEN. ADELBERTO F. YAP (ret.), assistant secretary, Air Transportation Office, Department of Transportation and Communications, MIA Road corner Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City

New bridge brings hope to Cambodia's Wild West

FEATURE

Ek Madra

KOH KONG, Cambodia—A brand new bridge linking southern Cambodia to Thailand is promising to transform the lives of tens of thousands of villagers once dependent on marijuana plantations and organized crime.

Known for years as Cambodia's "Wild West," a haven for drug deals, human trafficking and prostitution, the province of Koh Kong is on the brink of a new era, provincial officials say.

But many experts fear improved transport links will benefit international criminal syndicates as much as the community.

Until the late 1990s, the provincial capital of Koh Kong on the southwest tip of Cambodia's coast with Thailand was a paradise for gun-toting gangsters, a hub for the multi-million dollar illegal logging industry and a production zone for some of Asia's finest quality marijuana, grown in staggering quantities.

Now, after several years of anti-logging campaigns and drug crackdowns, Koh Kong is trying to rebuild a friendlier image and steer the economy away from the black market.

The new bridge opened in April spans a 2-kilometer (one mile) bay separating Koh Kong town from Thailand's southern Trat province to the West.

The bridge is the first land link with the Thai province and construction is underway on a road connecting Koh Kong to the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

Hopes are the bridge will increase tourism and trade from Thailand, and give the once infamous Cambodian coastal town the facelift it is seeking.

But it could also lead to a resurgence of organized crime.

Roads to Koh Kong were cut in the 1970s by communist Khmer Rouge rebels, and, until earlier this year the province—just 175 km southwest of the capital Phnom Penh—was only accessible by boat.

Virtually isolated, the "island" province and its estimated 130,000 population were easy prey for the gangsters.

Slipping just a few kilometers across the Thai border, criminals found fertile ground in Cambodia to grow marijuana, traffic women and children and chop down hardwood forests.

"When we talked about marijuana plantations in the past, we talked about hundreds and hundreds of hectares," Koh Kong Governor Yuth Phouthang told Reuters.

"Koh Kong was where marijuana was grown and smuggled, and where logs were secretly exported to Thailand," he said.

Drug lords gave farmers tools, seeds and fertilizer to grow cannabis in big jungle plantations. At harvest time they would buy the crop back from farmers, Yuth Phouthang said.

It was Koh Kong's most profitable cash crop and employed thousands.

International pressure on Phnom Penh to stop illegal logging and drugs mounted in the late 1990s, many logging mills were torched and marijuana plantations uprooted.

Two of the province's largest businesses wound down—or, as some believe, were driven further underground—and Koh Kong residents have since sought alternative sources of income.

"Koh Kong had a terrible image, but the new bridge can heal our wounds," Yuth Phouthang said.

Sok Siphana, a senior commerce ministry official in Phnom Penh, believes the Koh Kong bridge will also be a key link in connecting Vietnam and Thailand by road.

If Cambodia has its way, goods now transported by sea between Thailand and Vietnam will one day pass by road through Cambodia.

"Everyone will benefit from the bridge—Koh Kong, Vietnam and Thailand," he told Reuters.

Construction, though rather slow, is underway on other roads and bridges crucial to linking Koh Kong with Phnom Penh and Vietnam to the East.

But observers say it could take five to 10 years before Cambodia becomes a viable route for regional road haulage.

In the meantime, improved transport from Koh Kong and the Thai border could see less desirable goods reaching Phnom Penh quicker than ever before, anti-vice officials say.

"With the bridge we are expecting...ATS (Amphetamine-Type Stimulants) from Thailand to reach the country a lot faster," said Graham Shaw, an official with the United Nations Office for Drugs Control and Crime Prevention in Phnom Penh.

Funding for the Koh Kong bridge also raises questions over who will be the immediate beneficiaries.

The bridge—the longest in Cambodia—cost $7.2 million to build, according to the man who paid for it, Cambodian casino tycoon Ly Yong Phat.

Ly Yong Phat has already invested $50 million in a lavish casino-hotel on Koh Kong's border with Thailand.

Thai gamblers, prevented by law from indulging in their own country, flock to the casino just a few minutes walk from the Thai frontier.

Ly Yong Phat said the bridge—built under a 30-year build, operate and transfer deal with the Cambodian government—will bring more tourists to Koh Kong and to his resort.

"The potential for business is there, but how can we make money with no bridges and roads," Ly Yong Phat told Reuters.

But some wonder if the bridge will bring more business for Koh Kong's economy, or just line the pockets of Cambodia's casino kings and crime syndicates.

As the sun set recently over Koh Kong's newest link to the outside world, the owner of a small restaurant summed up the dilemma for many smaller business people.

"I just hope more tourists come and stay longer now we have this bridge," she said as evening traffic buzzed across the bridge. "Only that will be good for business." ***Reuters***

Unhappy with NSO's Helpline

I AM writing to call the attention of the leadership and staff the National Statistics Office (NSO). This concerns my application for NSO-certified copies of my birth certificate, which I coursed through their NSO Helpline Plus.

I made my application last month through their helpline (737-1111) and was very pleased with the courtesy and helpfulness of the operator. She instructed me to pay a processing fee of P450 for two copies, after which these will be mailed to me within 12 working days.

The certified birth certificates, indeed, arrived within the period. However, much to my consternation, the copies were far from being readable. Although they were photocopied on special paper and authenticated by an NSO officer, the entries were too "microscopic" to be read since the original birth certificate was photocopied in a reduced size. When I brought one copy for my passport application, I still needed to bring my original birth certificate (which I so dearly keep in my personal files) so as to dispel any doubt on its authenticity. Where is efficiency here?

My sister and some friends also had the same experience with this supposedly hassle-free application. While I commend the helpline concept for expediting the processing of a very important document such as a certified birth certificate, I believe that simple things like "photocopying" also need efficiency. This the NSO should ensure because applicants pay an exorbitant fee for this service.

—JPS ANAVE, 5 Kawilihan St., Maybunga, Pasig City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Worse attack may hit US–Cheney

NEW YORK—Vice President Dick Cheney on Thursday raised the specter of a new, devastating terror attack on the United States and said Democratic Party criticism of the White House's handling of pre-Sept. 11 terror warnings at such a time was "thoroughly irresponsible."

Cheney said in a speech in New York that an investigation by Congress into possible intelligence failings ahead of the Sept. 11 attacks, in which about 3,000 people were killed, should be handled with great circumspection.

"An investigation must not interfere with the ongoing efforts to prevent the next attack, because without a doubt a very real threat of another perhaps more devastating attack still exists," Cheney said at the start of the speech at a dinner marking the 40th anniversary of the New York State Conservative Party.

"The people and agencies responsible for helping us learn about and defeat such an attack are the very ones most likely to be distracted from their critical duties if Congress fails to carry out their obligations in a responsible fashion," Cheney said.

The vice president attacked Democratic Party critics of the White House's handling of pre-Sept. 11 terrorism warnings, saying that suggestions the attacks could have been prevented were "thoroughly irresponsible and totally unworthy of national leaders in a time of war."

Key members of Congress had demanded earlier to know if the US government had had enough information to head off the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Was there a failure of intelligence? Did the right officials not act on the intelligence in the proper way? These are the things we need to find out," said House of Representatives Democratic leader Richard Gephardt.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said he was "gravely concerned."

Administration officials said President George W. Bush had been warned in August of a possible hijack plot, but the intelligence was too general to act upon.

In his speech Cheney said he wanted to tell "my Democratic friends in the Congress is that they need to be very cautious not to seek political advantage by making incendiary suggestions."

"The president and I believe that one of our most important responsibilities is to do all that we can to ensure that an attack like 9/11 never happens again," he said.

Reuters

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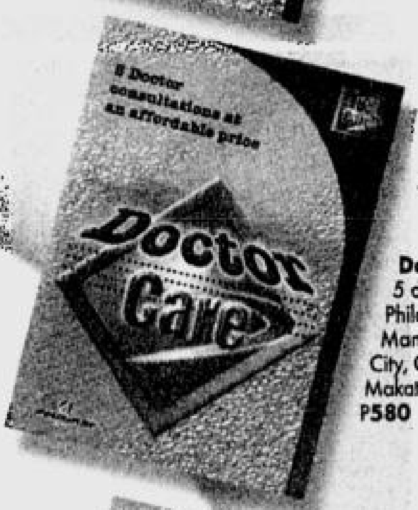
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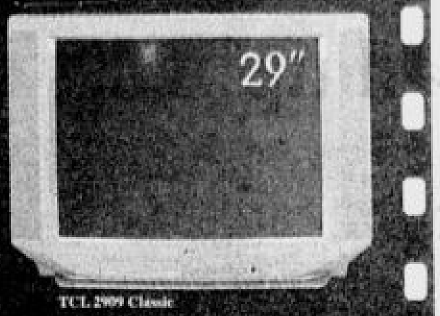
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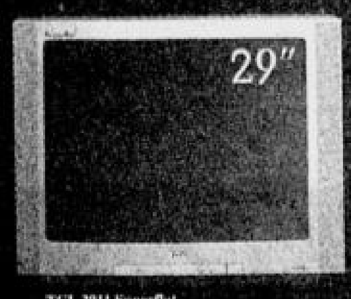
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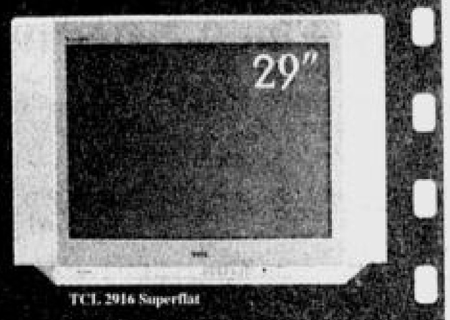
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India heat wave deaths rise to 622

HYDERABAD, India—The death toll from a heat wave in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh climbed to 622 on Thursday, even as rains fell in some parts of the province, officials said.

Officials said more deaths had been reported from remote coastal districts. Most were of people admitted to hospital after suffering sunstroke in the past week.

The heat wave is the worst in four years and comes ahead of the annual monsoon rains which usually first hit the southern coast of Kerala in June and spread across the rest of the country over the next three months.

Officials said temperatures, which hit a peak of 48 degrees Celsius in the worst affected areas, had fallen in the past two days because of the rains, the first since March. Temperatures normally hover between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius around this time of year.

"In the next couple of days, there's a likelihood of an increase in rain in several places," said C.V.V. Bhadram, director with the Hyderabad Meteorological Center.

Most of the victims were from the rural belt where farmers and hawkers suffered heatstroke due to dehydration.

Large swathes of northern India have also been reeling under scorching daytime temperatures but have not been as badly affected as the southern part of the country. *Reuters*

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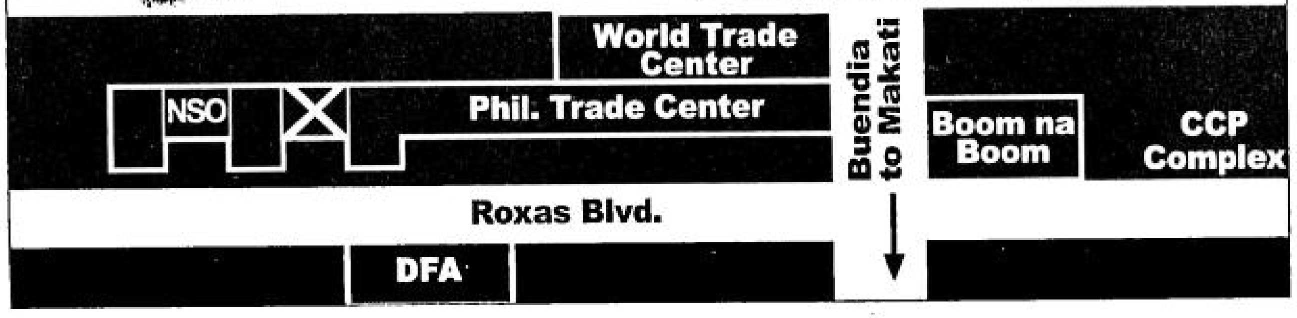

Israeli troops raid Jenin refugee camp

JENIN, West Bank—The Israeli Army entered the West Bank town of Jenin and its battle-scarred refugee camp overnight to search for militants, an Israeli military spokesperson and Palestinian security sources said Friday.

The Army had already withdrawn from the camp and was on the verge of leaving the city in the north of the territory by 10 a.m., following several hours of fighting with gunmen, the Israeli military said.

Palestinian security source said dozens of Israeli tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, had rolled into the city and camp, opening fire on several targets, and sparking the fighting with armed Palestinians.

Israeli soldiers arrested Kamal Abu Al-Wafa, a local leader of an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, inside the town, Palestinian witnesses said.

They also destroyed the house of an official of the radical Islamic group Hamas, Jamal Abu Haija, in the camp, although he was not inside at the time, other witnesses said.

Israeli units have now taken up positions outside the camp, they said.

The Palestinians have accused Israeli forces of committing war crimes and massacring Palestinians during their April 3-13 assault on the refugee camp, accusations that Israel denies.

More than 50 Palestinians, both fighters and civilians, as well as 23 Israeli soldiers were killed in the April pitched battle for the camp, home to around 15,000 people.

Earlier, as Israel maintained military pressure on the Palestinians, soldiers also entered the autonomous West Bank towns of El Bireh, near Ramallah, and Tulkarem, Palestinian security officials said.

Some 15 tanks went into Tulkarem, and shooting was reported but no casualties.

In El Bireh a unit comprising a tank, a jeep and an armored personnel carrier entered the town, the officials said. *AFP*

Belgium parliament debates legalizing mercy killings

BRUSSELS—The Belgian parliament Wednesday begins debate on partially legalizing euthanasia, ahead of a vote which would make it the second country in the world with The Netherlands to allow mercy killings.

The debate comes just days after the death of Diane Pretty, a terminally ill British woman who lost a landmark legal battle in the European Court of Human Rights for the right to commit suicide.

The law—which is expected to be passed through the Chamber of Deputies by the end of the week—was first proposed in June 1999 and was already approved by the Senate last October.

Paradoxically in a country with a strong Catholic culture, the newspaper La Libre Belgique found 72 percent of Belgians were in favor of adopting the new law.

Once the law goes into effect, a doctor who carries out a mercy killing will not be guilty of having committed a crime if the patient is terminally ill and has made the decision themselves, and if certain other legal procedures have been respected.

In particular, the doctor must have satisfied himself that the patient is "of age and conscious," and that the request to die was made of the patient's own free will, properly thought through and consistent, and not the result of external pressure.

To avoid prosecution, a doctor must also be sure that the patient "is in a terminal medical situation" and enduring "constant and unbearable physical or psychological pain" resulting from an accident or incurable illness.

However, it gives each patient the right to receive ongoing treatment with pain killers to ensure that poor or isolated patients do not ask to die because they do not have money for treatment.

Federal and regional authorities would be responsible for providing such care, while doctors asked to carry out a mercy killing would be obliged to inform patients that such care was available.

The Netherlands became the first country in Europe—and the world—to legalize euthanasia on April 1 of this year.

In Britain, assisted suicide is illegal but following Pretty's death, a cross-party group of British members of parliament is to meet on Tuesday to discuss whether to press for legislation to decriminalize doctor-assisted suicide.

In France, euthanasia is illegal. *AFP*

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Pope may resign if his health worsens, says cardinal

ROME—Pope John Paul II has not ruled out the possibility that he may have to resign if his health worsens, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga said Thursday.

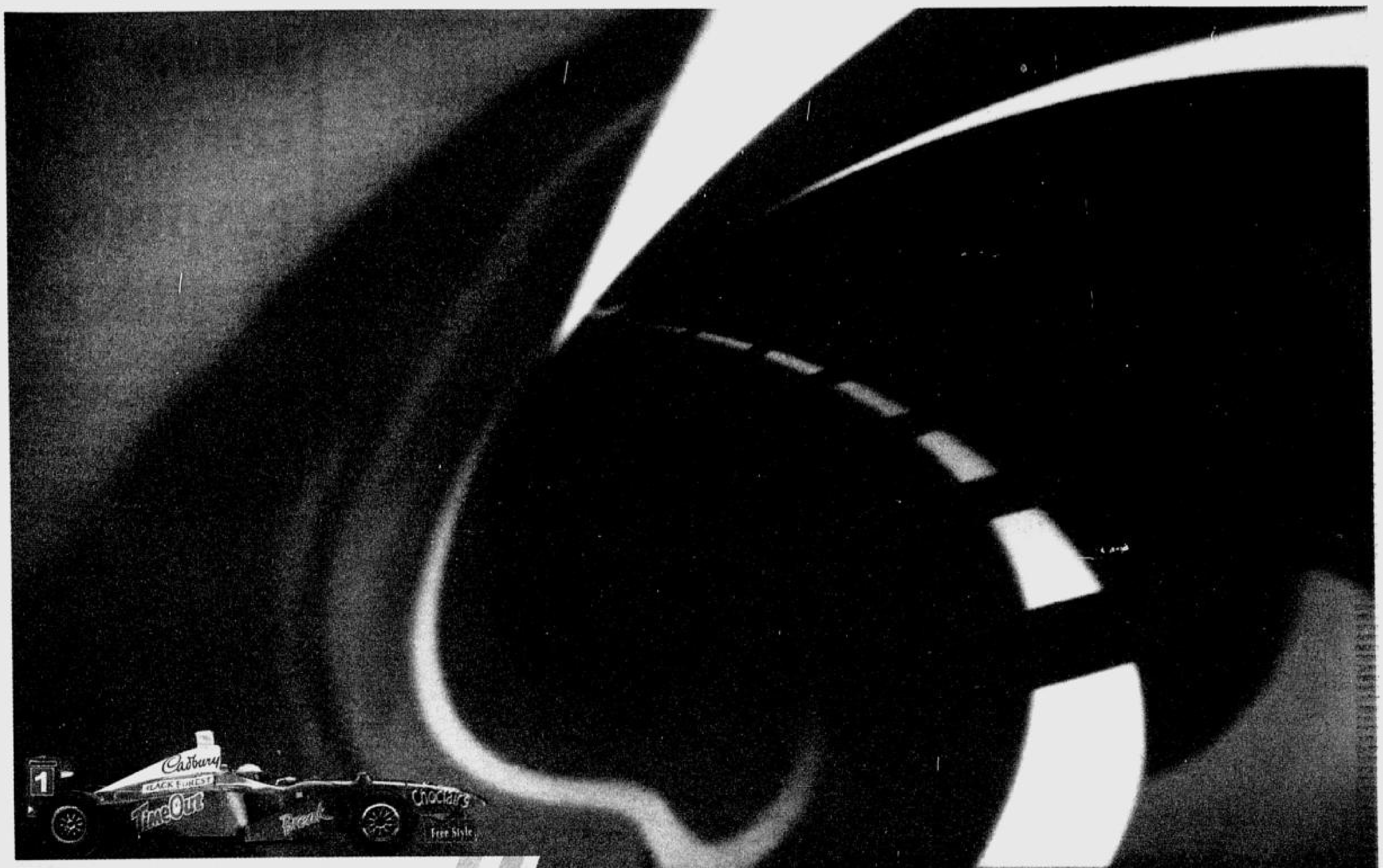
"The Pope is fully aware of his responsibility and when he realizes that he can no longer go on, he will have the courage to say: 'I quit,'" the archbishop of Tegucigalpa said at a press conference.

"John Paul II thinks the same thing," Maradiaga added.

The Pontiff, who will be 82 on Saturday, suffers from Parkinson's disease and problems with an arthritic knee that have forced him to curtail his activities.

In his first trip outside the Vatican in seven months to the Italian island of Ischia on May 5, the Pope's curved back and faltering voice revealed clear signs of the illnesses that are wracking his body.

On May 23, the Pontiff is to visit Bulgaria and then head to the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. **AFP**



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Suu Kyi leaves capital

RANGOON—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi left her home in the Burma capital to visit a provincial party office on Friday in her first real test of freedom since being released from house arrest, witnesses said.

All her attempts to leave Rangoon in recent years have been blocked by the military. Her most recent spell in house arrest came after she made several high-profile attempts to travel outside Rangoon in 2000 in defiance of travel restrictions.

Suu Kyi was driven away from her lakeside home in a car at around 9 a.m. heading for Shwepyitha, some 32 km north of Rangoon, officials said.

The secretary of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), U Lwin, said the 56-year-old Nobel Peace laureate would meet senior party officials in the township.

If successful, it would be her first trip much beyond the outskirts of Rangoon since October 1997, party officials said.

"She is going to Shwepyitha this morning," U Lwin said. "It will be a routine visit to see the situation at the reopened township office."

Suu Kyi was released from 19 months of house arrest on May 6 after protracted secretive talks with the military generals who have ruled the impoverished country for the last 40 years.

She said in a radio interview on Thursday night that all restrictions on her movements had been lifted and although this had yet to be tested she did not anticipate problems.

"I can move about freely and invite any guest I want to. No disturbance at all. I don't think there will be any disturbance hen I visit township offices," Suu Kyi told the Burmese-language service of Radio Free Asia. ***Reuters***

India considers response to attack

NEW DELHI—Top Indian ministers and Army commanders met Thursday to draw up a response to a bloody Islamic separatist attack in Kashmir that New Delhi said was carried out by Pakistanis.

As the United States sought to defuse tensions between the nuclear-armed South Asian nations, Pakistan detained the founder of the outlawed Islamic militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which Indian officials linked to the attack that killed 35 people.

Hafiz Mohamad Saeed, the former leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba, or the Army of the Pure, was taken into custody Wednesday on suspicion he was planning to create unrest, official sources said in Pakistan.

Lashkar-e-Taiba is known for its suicide bombings and is also blamed by India for a December attack on its parliament that sent tensions on the subcontinent spiraling.

But Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani said Pakistan had not done enough and lashed out at Washington for its support of President Pervez Musharraf, a key ally in its war on terrorism.

"It is unfortunate that when Pakistan has not renounced terrorism there are still some Western countries aiding Pakistan economically and in other ways," he told reporters.

"Whichever country uses terrorism as an instrument of national policy should not be helped by any country in the world," said Advani, who met later with US Ambassador Robert Blackwill.

The hawkish home minister also met later with Defense Minister George Fernandes and Indian Kashmir's Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. They were briefed by senior Army commanders on their options.

"Pakistan is not going to stop this war that it has unleashed in India," said Abdullah, who has long called for strikes on militant camps across the disputed Kashmir border.

The home ministry said in a statement that a number of possible actions were discussed at the security meeting, including "continued operations against the terrorists and action against the overground support base of the terrorists."

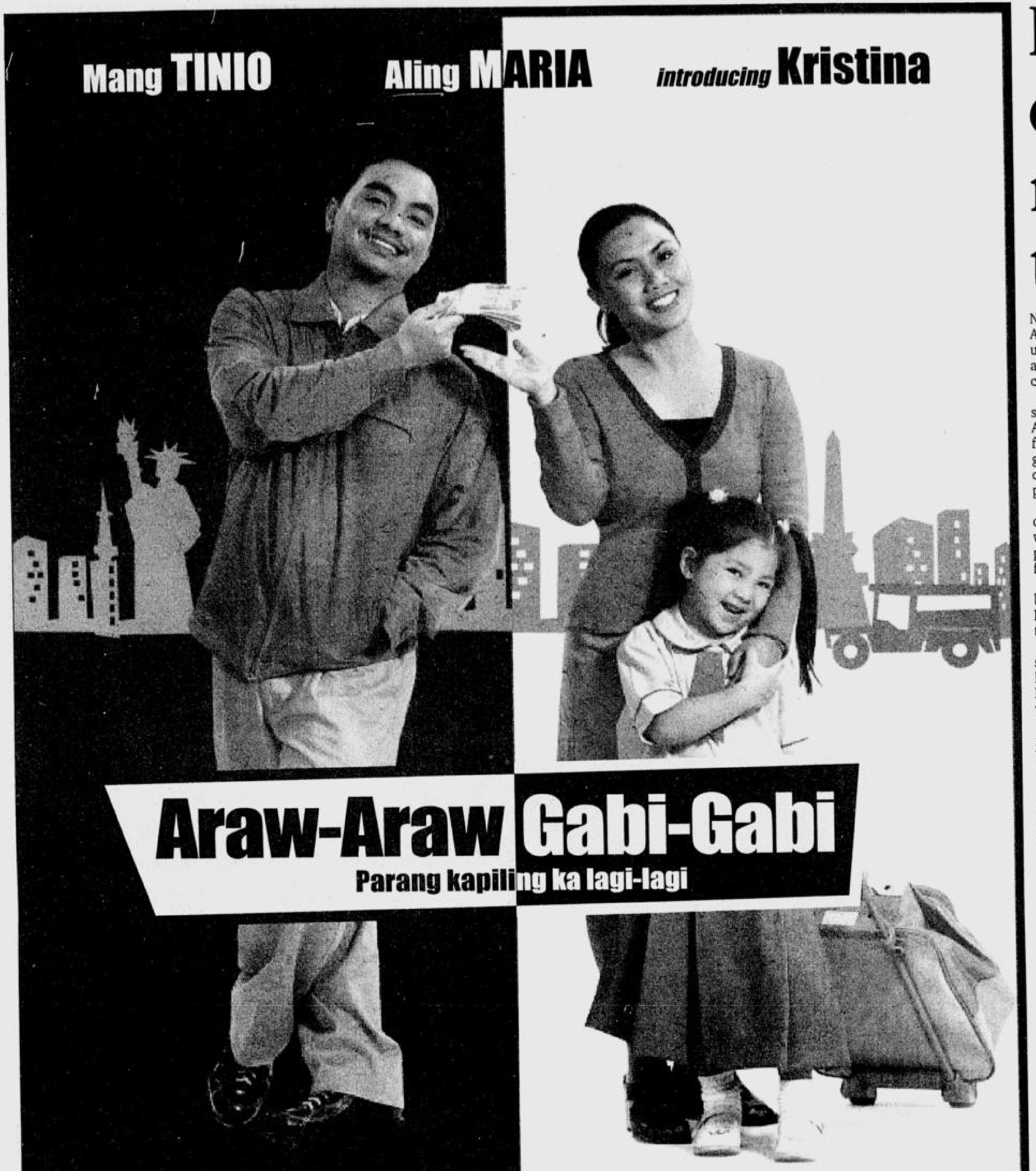
The chief of India's Army, Gen. S. Padmanabhan, hinted he favored military action.

"I don't want to go into the specifics but time for action has come," Padmanabhan told the Indian television network Star News during a visit to Nepal.

Parliament was due to discuss the attack Friday. The main opposition Congress party, harshly critical of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee over his handling of anti-Muslim riots in the western state of Gujarat, has pledged to support the government in action against terrorism.

Vajpayee also held a separate half-hour meeting Thursday with Fernandes, Advani and Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, officials said.

On Tuesday, militants disguised as soldiers opened fire on a civilian bus near Jammu, Kashmir's Hindu-majority winter capital, and killed seven passengers before storming the residential quarters of a nearby Indian army camp. Most of the 28 camp victims were women and children. ***AFP***



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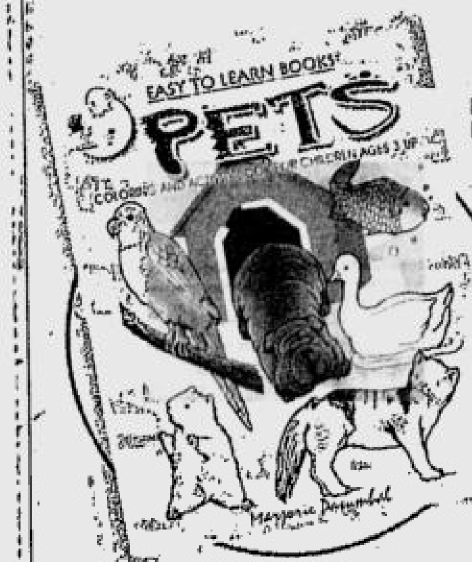

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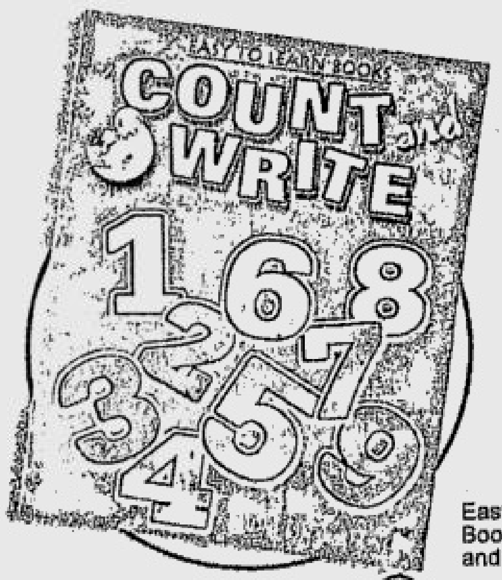

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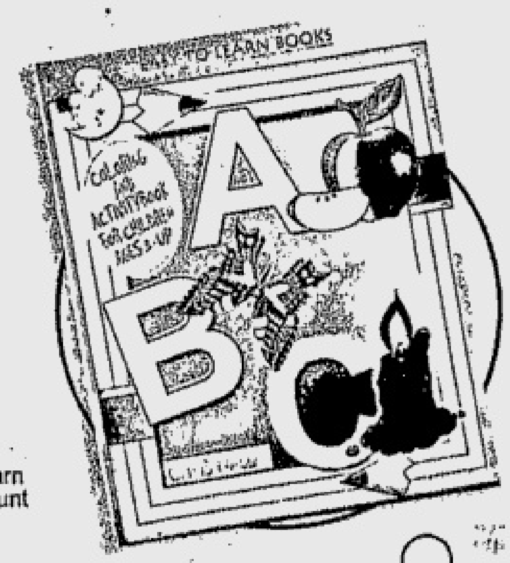

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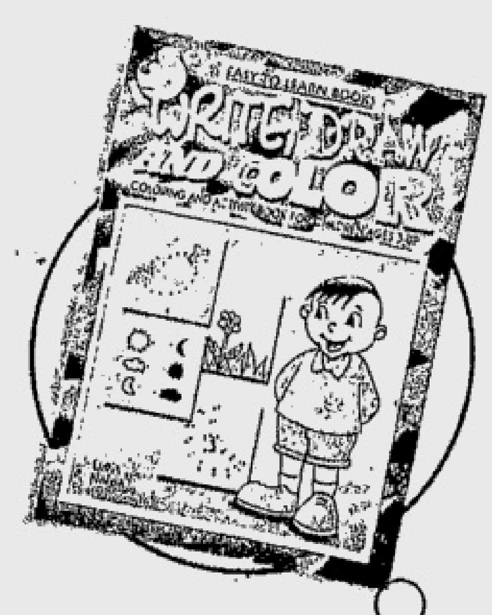

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Bomb found in house in airbase; suspect held

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Air Force security personnel arrested on Thursday a man after a bomb was found inside his residence located within the compound of the Mactan Benito Ebuen Airbase (MBEAB) on Mactan Island, Cebu.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the airbase's Tactical Operations Command, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the suspect was still inside the airbase, undergoing interrogation.

But Canaya declined to identify the suspect, saying doing so would jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

"He is just a plain civilian. He is not a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police," he said.

He, however, discounted the possibility that the bomb found inside the airbase was manufactured by a terrorist group or any group protesting the Balikatan exercises.

Canaya confirmed that the suspect was a relative of a retired Air Force official who also lives inside the airbase.

The Air Force investigators were also gathering background information on the retired Air Force official. "But we are concentrating more on the suspect," Canaya said.

This was the second time that a bomb was found at the Mactan airbase. The first was on Feb. 10, when a resident found a Molotov bomb near the MBEAB's gate 2 at the height of the protests against the joint military exercises. It was not known who planted the bomb.

The MBEAB is the maintenance base for the United States aircraft participating in the US-RP Balikatan Exercise. About 250 US personnel are stationed in the MBEAB as part of the Joint Task Force (JTF) 510 based in Zamboanga City.

Apparently, the Air Force personnel received a tip that the suspect was keeping a bomb in his house.

Airbase security personnel conducted a surveillance operation, which later yielded positive results because a homemade bomb was found inside the suspect's house located near the airbase's Gate 2.

Canaya said criminal charges would be filed against the suspect once they were through with their investigation.

Security around and inside the airbase was tightened following the use of the base as a maintenance base for US soldiers participating in the ongoing Balikatan military exercises in Basilan.

The US soldiers are in Basilan to help Filipino troopers track down members of the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group with links to Osama bin Laden, who was tagged as the mastermind of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 last year.

US soldiers are also conducting war games in Central Luzon and leftist groups claim these exercises were aimed at fighting communist insurgency.

EL NIÑO PRELUDE

Drought drying up Magat Dam

CAUAYAN CITY—Water at the Magat Dam, one of the biggest dams in Asia and a major power and irrigation water source in Cagayan Valley, has fallen to a critical level due to extreme drought and lack of rainfall, an irrigation official said.

Vicente Galvez, National Irrigation Administration regional manager, said the Magat Dam's catch basin in Ramon town has registered a 168-meter water level, which is way below the 175-meter level registered in the same month last year.

Galvez said this has prompted the NIA to reduce its service area from 75,000 hectares to 50,000 hectares of rice land.

"If we will not cut the service area, we will have bigger problems arising from lack of water because the dam's tunnels might be destroyed (due to) the rapid flow of water," he said.

Magat Dam provides irrigation water to 88,730 hectares of rice land in Isabela, Cagayan and parts of Quirino and Ifugao.

The dam is expected to be operational until 2015 or beyond depending on efforts to maintain it. Heavy river siltation has been reported damaging the dam.

The long dry spell, the low water level at the Magat River and the destruction of some watershed areas have been contributing to the low water level at the dam, it was learned.

Galvez said they would provide pump wells, deep wells and small water-impounding facilities to irrigate farmlands in the region.

.Cloud seeding, he said, is also an option but it is not advisable during this month as most farmers have yet to plant palay.

"It is not advisable yet because cloud seeding may not directly pour either on the palay farms or into the Magat Dam's water basin," he said.

Galvez said they would re-open the irrigation service facilities in June in time for the planting season.

The NIA cut off its services in March to rehabilitate irrigation facilities and canals.

Provincial agriculturist Danilo Tumamao said at least P39 million worth of palay and corn plants in 13,880 hectares of land in the province have been destroyed by drought.

In General Santos City, the City Agriculturist's Office (CAO) said it needs at least P6.8 million to cushion the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to worsen by July this year.

Toto Dimapiles, CAO farm technician, said his office needs the funds to implement measures for the El Niño phenomenon, a weather aberration characterized by the onset of a long dry spell.

The CAO has been conducting an information campaign to prepare farmers in the 24 agricultural barangays—15 upland and nine coastal—for the onset of the El Niño.

Dimapiles disclosed that preparations include, among others, distribution of fingerlings in coastal barangays, commercial seed distribution to farmers in upland barangays, upgrading of shallow tube wells, pest management and control, and cloud seeding.

He also warned farmers about a possible locust and rat infestation during the El Niño.

"Pests like rats and locust swarm on agricultural crops during a long dry season," he said. ***Villamor Visayas Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Another fish kill hits Dagupan City

DAGUPAN CITY—Two weeks after they celebrated a *bangus* festival, residents in six villages lost at least P10-million worth of *bangus* in a fish kill here on Tuesday.

Fish pen operators in Calmay, Salapingao, Pantal-Guibang, Carael, Calmay and Lucao here hastily harvested their cultured *bangus* when these started gasping for breath early Tuesday.

In February, Bolinao town's aquaculture industry lost P600 million to a massive fish kill.

Juanito Doria, a fish pen operator, said fish kills are "natural occurrences" from February to June because of the hot weather. Fish, especially the cultured ones, easily succumb to heat when they are stocked densely, he said.

Uneaten fish feeds affect the water quality of the rivers as these settle on the rivers' bottom. Because there is no rain, the pollution is not flushed out into the sea.

"During these times, we are either on the losing side or, if lucky, we merely break even," Doria said, adding that small-scale fish kills have been occurring the past weeks here.

Most operators did not stock their fish pens to minimize losses. "We can earn more during the rainy season and offset the losses during the dry season," Doria said.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the city government is dredging the city rivers by a meter. He vowed to regulate the aquaculture industry, one of the city's big earners. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Scion of Agusan Sur clan found dead in mom's home

BUTUAN CITY—A scion of a powerful political clan in Agusan del Sur was found yesterday, after apparently committing suicide inside their house in Barangay Baan here.

Valentino Douglas Plaza, the youngest son of former Agusan del Sur Gov. Valentina Plaza, was found slumped on the floor of his bathroom around 9 a.m. by Roger Ramirez, a family friend.

Ramirez immediately notified Plaza's siblings, including Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, Gov. Adolf Edward Plaza and former Butuan Mayor Democrito Plaza II.

Investigators said Plaza was still holding a Glock 19 pistol when they arrived.

SP01 Rodolfo Ledesma said Plaza, 37, single, and who has been living with her mother, died after a 9mm bullet entered his left chest and exited through the lower left portion of his back.

A Glock 19 pistol uses 9 mm bullets.

Ledesma said Plaza could have died as early as 7 a.m. or about two hours after his body was discovered.

But he said based on initial findings, there was no evidence of foul play.

Another investigator said there was no sign of any forcible entry in Plaza's house.

The family refused to issue any statement. ***Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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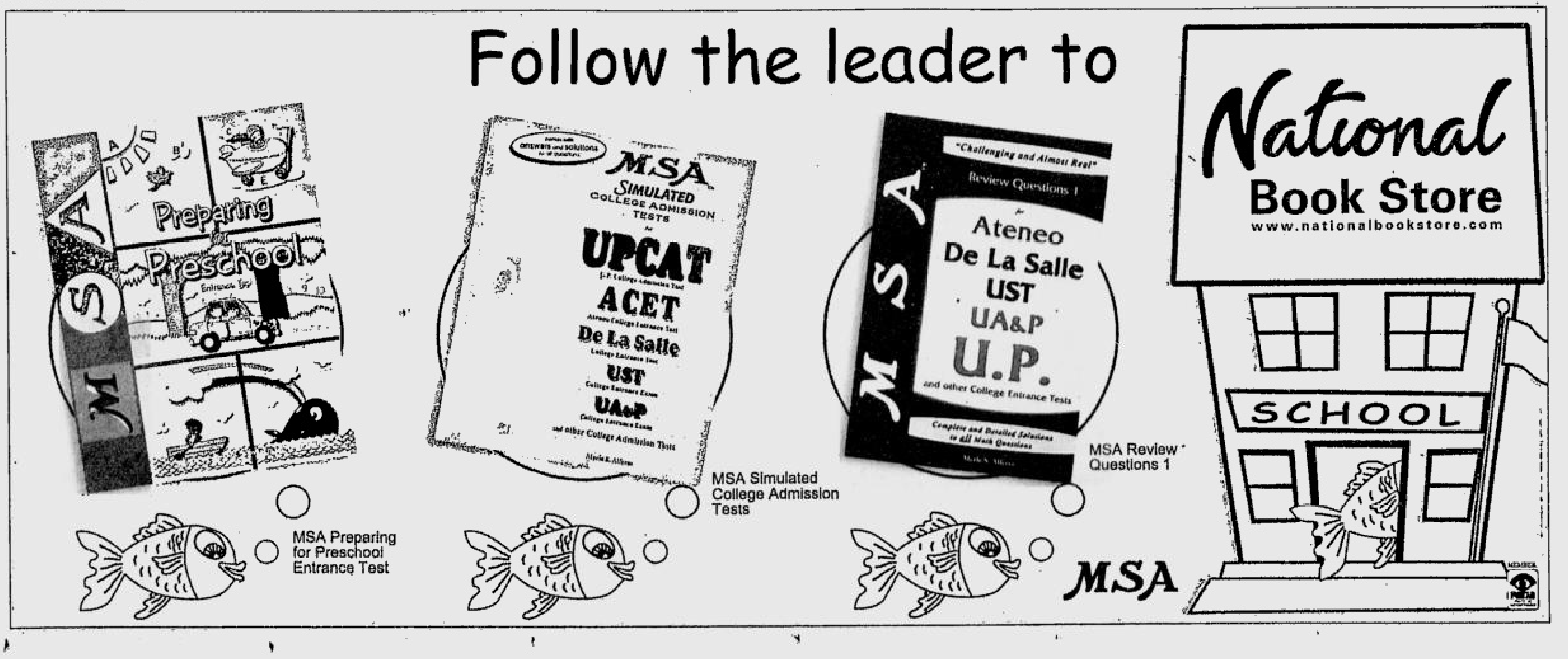

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 37° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/18/02

ROUNDUP

Case dismissed

BACOLOD CITY—The Sandiganbayan's Second Division junked the malversation of public property charges against a former Bacolod City engineer for lack of evidence. In a resolution dated April 11, Associate Justice Raoul Victorino ordered the dismissal of the case against former City Engineer Jose Falcis Jr. because the prosecution failed to prove that Falcis had a hand in the loss of the city government-owned 2,339 bags of imported cement worth P350,850. The case was filed in February 1992 after Falcis failed to account for the 2,339 bags of cement that disappeared from his custody. But the Sandiganbayan said the prosecution failed to link Falcis, in any way, to the loss of the bags of cement.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Firearms possession

MAMBUSAO, Capiz—Charges of illegal possession of firearms were filed against a 66-year-old man in Barangay Pangpang here. The charges stemmed from the recovery of a .38-cal. revolver, an M-16 armalite rifle, and ammunition for various kinds of firearms during a raid on the house of Dioscoro Lacson. Senior Insp. Danilo Araquel of Mambusao police said they received reports that Lacson was keeping an armalite rifle allegedly owned by the bodyguard of his son-in-law who was reportedly an Army soldier. Lacson was about to buy the firearm from the bodyguard.

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Driver surrenders

BAGUIO CITY—The driver of a passenger jeepney that fell into a ravine along Kennon Road in Tuba, Benguet, on Saturday, turned out to be a minor who was carrying a student driver's license. The 17-year-old boy surrendered to the police on Sunday. The jeepney's conductor was killed while 33 passengers were hurt in the accident. The jeepney, bound for Rosario, La Union, overtook another jeepney but it lost its brakes and plunged into a 40-meter deep ravine.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ordinance junked

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial board junked on Monday a controversial city ordinance for the construction of a memorial park at a business center here. The board said the construction of the eight-hectare Mt. Zion Memorial Park was "contrary to public interest and welfare." Board Member Crisostomo Garbo, chair of the board's committee on rules and appropriations, said developing a memorial park in the heart of the city should have public acceptance. He said the project required several public hearings and not just one hearing conducted by the city council.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

PPA scrapping

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) said it would remove the purchase power adjustment in its June billing to Aleco power consumers if the National Power Corp. will not include it in its May 25 billing to the electric cooperative. Marilyn Casin of the Aleco finance office said their action would be dependent on Napocor's move. Of Aleco's effective rate of P5.8035 per kilowatt-hour, the PPA charge is P2.5231.

Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SHOOTOUT AFTERMATH

Kidnap raps readied vs wife of trader

By Gerry T. Pagharion
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation in Western Visayas is set to file kidnapping charges against the wife of the kidnapping suspect killed during a shootout in Dumalag town, Capiz last Wednesday.

But friends of Dindo and Marivic Salazar yesterday came to their defense, saying the couple was not capable of committing the crime imputed to them.

NBI regional director Carlos Saunar said charges would be filed against Marivic and other persons who were involved in the alleged kidnapping of Manila-based physician Madeline Erada.

Dindo was killed on Wednesday after an entrapment operation against the couple by a composite team of NBI agents and soldiers from the Army's Task Force Panay turned into a shootout.

Also killed were Erada's sister Perla Pasoquin and Army Private First Class Jenet Bacanto. The NBI rescued Erada unharmed.

Marivic remained in the custody of Dumalag Mayor Ricardo Castro Jr. The mayor intervened during a lull in the shootout.

Saunar said it was "clearly" a kidnap-for-ransom case based on the complaint filed by Pasoquin. But, he added, the NBI was also looking into allegations that Erada owed the couple a large sum of money.

In her statement to the NBI on May 14, Pasoquin said the couple forced her sister to board a plane from Manila to Iloilo City on May 9. Erada was then sending off her 14-year-old son at the Manila domestic airport.

Erada's son, who boarded the same plane with his mother and the couple, supported Pasoquin's statements.

Pasoquin said Marivic told her to produce about P100,000 on or before 8 p.m. of May 10. That day, Pasoquin gave only P34,000 to Marivic when she went to the couple's house in Dumalag. The next payoff was set on May 15 but Pasoquin sought the help of the NBI.

Lawyer Nelly Abao-Lee, a family friend of the couple, refuted the allegation, saying Erada voluntarily went with the Salazar couple to settle her debt amounting to P180,000.

She said the couple could not and would not put their reputation and their life on the line by committing the crime imputed to them.

Dindo and Marivic were known to fight for what they believed in, she said.

People in Roxas could still remember that incident in July 1997 when the couple figured in a brawl with then Mayor Julius Salcedo following an altercation over politics inside the Dumalag Municipal hall.

Dindo belonged to the prominent Faeldonia clan in Dumalag before he was adopted by the Salazar family. Marivic was the adopted daughter of former Dumalag Mayor Martin Fajardo, her uncle.

The couple owns a furniture shop in Dumalag and a calling station. Marivic was into money-lending and jewelry business.

Capiz provincial integrated health officer Obdulia Gloria, also came to the couple's defense, saying Erada was facing a lot of estafa cases.

She said Mayor Castro showed her a copy of the standing arrest warrant against Erada for an estafa case in Sultan Kuradat.

Gloria also claimed that Erada had borrowed P100,000 from her and failed to pay on time.

She said Erada was charged with estafa by Susan de la Peña, an employee at the Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital, for failing to pay a debt of P500,000.

Saunar had also shown reporters in Iloilo on Thursday a copy of an arrest warrant against Erada in violation of the anti-bouncing checks law, Batasang Pambansa 22, issued by the 6th Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Dumalag-Tapaz on Aug. 11, 1985 by Judge Luney Corcino with bail set at P16,500.

Church rejects entry of lotto in Vigan

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Church-based organizations are opposing the operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's lotto games here, saying gambling would destroy the Ilocano value of industry and would promote laziness.

On Tuesday, representatives from different Church-based organizations attended the third and final hearing conducted by the city council's committee on games and amusements to express their opposition to lotto operations in Vigan, the hometown of PCSO Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" Singson-de Leon.

Rolando Manlapid, PCSO regional operations manager, and Don de Leon, Singson-De Leon's son and chief of staff, represented the PCSO in the public hearing.

Members of the Family and Life Apostolate Commission here said the establishment of lotto as a means of generating revenue for the city government "reflects the kind of family leadership and moral upbringing of the people who are entrusted to manage the bigger family—the city government of Vigan."

"Any consideration for the economic reward of lotto as a prize for moral sacrifice is within the framework of evil forces and desperate greed and lust for money," a commission resolution said.

The group said it believes that Vigan officials "are responsible people of God, responsible family men who are able to make moral choices and moral decisions especially those distinguishing good and evil."

The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, one of the provincial government's staunchest critics, is also opposing the entry of lotto here.

"We are against lotto's entry to Vigan and Ilocos Sur because it will be another step to corrupt the people. Gambling destroys the moral fiber of our society. The dependency on chance promotes laziness and vice is a sure way of destroying the Ilocano trait of industry and productivity," said David Roca, Sisa secretary general.

Manlapid said it is only in Vigan and Candon cities that they joined the public hearings on lotto operations because they heeded local officials' plea.

"We have to defer always to the sentiments of the people in the locality where lotto will operate," Manlapid told the INQUIRER.

He said in the Ilocos region, at least 29 lotto outlets are operating in Pangasinan and three in Ilocos Norte. Four outlets in La Union and two outlets in Ilocos Norte will open soon.

"(Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina) is letting proper procedure take its course. Public hearings have been held." said City Administrator Milagros Alquiza.

Medina was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

3 of 8 slain kidnap suspects identified by cops

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN ANTONIO, Quezon—Police have identified three of the eight suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom gang operating in Southern Tagalog.

The eight were killed in an alleged shootout with police and members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the boundary of Quezon and Batangas on Wednesday.

They were Boy Levy Reudero, Reynaldo Lirio and Rexon Marasigan who, police report said, were members of the notorious Oliver Gang.

The Oliver gang was believed responsible for the abduction of Dr. Arturo Koa in January. Koa was freed after paying ransom.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, said the alleged shootout happened at around 4 p.m. along the highway in Barangay Loob, this town and ended in nearby Barangay Castillo, Padre Garcia, Batangas.

Rosales said the victims were aboard two cars—a white Mitsubishi Lancer with plate number WEJ 933 and red Toyota Corolla bearing plate number UTA 607.

Recovered from the slain suspects at the scene of the shooting were eight short firearms.

There were, however, doubts on whether there was really a shootout or not.

When newsmen tried to interview residents in the place of the alleged shootout, most of them were evasive.

Even the occupants of the house in front of the site of the shootout could not give any information on the alleged exchange of fire.

The white bullet-riddled Mitsubishi Lancer was still on the roadside. Its windows on both sides were shattered with bullets while the windshield bore signs of being heavily fired upon.

Two steel blockades were also spotted along the side of the provincial road.

One of the residents in the area told newsmen that the steel blockades were set up after the shooting "because the traffic was building up due to curious onlookers."

GMA visits Subic, feeds school kids

OLONGAPO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo visited this city and Subic, Zambales, on Friday and inaugurated a women's health clinic and led the feeding of school children under the government's supplementary feeding program.

Ms Macapagal opened the women's health unit of the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital here, the first center of its kind in Central Luzon.

The unit, according to city officials, will serve as the center for equal opportunities for education, health and development of women in the city.

It will provide services like mammography, cervical cancer screening, breast and pelvic mass consultation, regular gynecological clearance and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, among other services.

The establishment of the women's health unit is part of the expansion of hospital services and women empowerment program of the city government, according to Mayor Katherine Gordon.

The 255-bed hospital, named after the assassinated Olongapo Mayor James L. Gordon, is funded by the city government. It received the Department of Health's National Sentrong Sigla Award for providing quality health care not only to Olongapo residents but also to patients from outlying provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and Pangasinan. ***Allan Macatuno and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

PNP intelligence officer held for journalist's slay

PAGADIAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday arrested a police intelligence officer in connection with the death last week of journalist Edgar Damalerio here.

Lawyer Friolo Icao, NBI district chief here, said P01 Guillermo Wapili, who is assigned with the city police, was positively identified by another witness as the gunman.

Wapili's arrest came after city police director Supt. Asuri Hawani ordered the filing of murder charges against Ronie Quilme, an alleged gun-for-hire, for Damalerio's death.

Hawani said Quilme's description fitted that of the gunman, based on a testimony of a witness.

But Icao said the filing of charges against Quilme was an attempt on the part of the police to whitewash Wapili's involvement.

It was not clear why the police would attempt a cover up, but Damalerio had been critical of Hawani.

Damalerio, 33, and managing editor of the Zamboanga Scribe was driving his jeep when one of two motorcycle-riding men shot him dead at around 8:20 p.m. in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform provincial office along Pajares Avenue.

Damalerio, who also works with the government-run dxKP, had just emerged from a press briefing hosted by the Zamboanga del Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. when he was killed.

Icao said Wapili was summoned on Friday morning at the provincial police headquarters and was included in a police line-up.

It was when the witness positively identified him as the gunman.

Icao said he believes that the NBI witness was credible, so they immediately held Wapili.

The police officer is now detained at the provincial police headquarters.

Icao said the NBI witness was close to Damalerio when the killing occurred, unlike Rudy Garcia, the police witness.

Garcia, in his affidavit, claimed that Quilme, who was wearing a scarf, shot Damalerio on Monday evening.

He said he was standing about 100 meters away from the scene of the crime.

But Icao said Garcia's account was doubtful because it would be impossible for a witness to recognize a suspect from that distance, especially at night.

"How would you be able to identify the gunman from a distance of 100 meters especially when the crime was committed in a dark portion of the road? I'd rather admit the revelation of our witness than that of Garcia . . . it's ridiculous," he said.

The witness told reporters that after shooting Damalerio, the gunman went back to his motorcycle and fled toward nearby Urro Street. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Tragedy takes over feast in Biliran

By Vicente S. Labro
Naval, Biliran

JUST when the weeklong festivities that had been going on smoothly in Naval, Biliran, were about to end, tragedy struck and claimed 19 lives last week.

The festive atmosphere that pervaded Naval earlier suddenly turned into anguish and disbelief when the MT Nilode sank off the coast of the capital town late in the afternoon of May 12, a Saturday.

Barely seven hours before the accident, the 100 or so passengers of the ill-fated outrigger boat were among those who joined the big celebration in Naval.

A cacophony of sounds from people ringing church bells, beating drums, stomping their feet, clapping hands and shouting with glee reverberated as they celebrated the 10th founding anniversary of the province.

Activities lined up for the festivities included beauty contests, an agriculture, aquaculture and technology trade fair, sports competitions, a medical-dental mission and the inauguration of a two-story provincial hospital building.

That Saturday, a thanksgiving Mass was held, as well as a street dancing competition, a lawn tennis championship game and the awarding of prizes to winners of the cleanest and greenest municipality and barangay, best communal garden and the best barangay along the highway.

The Governor's Night, an evening social, was supposed to cap the celebration, which was geared toward making Biliran a progressive province as suggested by the theme "*Padayon sa Dekada nga Mauswagon* (Toward a progressive decade)."

Instead, the affair ended in tragedy. A motorboat with outriggers capsized about 20 minutes after it left the pier for the island-town of Maripipi.

People who witnessed the incident immediately launched a rescue operation. But 19 persons drowned after they were reportedly trapped inside the cabin of the boat when it capsized.

Ironically, the sinking happened on the eve of Mother's Day. Most of the victims were mothers or grandmothers.

Among the fatalities were Marites Aguilos, 25, and her two children—Michaela, 4, and Micky, six months. Marites and her husband Michael, station manager of Radyo Natin-Naval, had just celebrated their wedding anniversary on May 8.

Another victim, Josephine Malanan, was the wife of the ferry owner, Alfredo.

Virgilia Severino should not have boarded the boat had she heeded the advice of her husband Juanito, 76, who noticed that the boat was already overloaded. Juanito and their grandson Glen, 14, had decided to step off the boat.

Except for Aguilos and Malanan, the fatalities belonged to the Manuel-Radam-Gaviola clan in Maripipi. They were Severino, Rudolph Gabin Rolona, 6; Josephine Malanan 33; Fenelia Llorad, 35; Otilla Martinez, 45; Ferminia Raagas, 45; Inocenta Adaptante, 45; Prudenciado de Loyola, 46; Juanita Rigodon, 54; Carmelita Marabello, 62; Erlinda Adaptante, 63; Salud Aronzado, 65; Julita Rabasto, 66; Josefina Gaviola, 74; Segundina Colibra, 75; and Nicomedesa Radam, 76.

The Special Board of Marine Inquiry is investigating the sinking.

Four Coast Guard officers were relieved for allowing the boat to sail with more than 100 passengers on board although the boat can carry only 30.

Some survivors recalled that the boat capsized when many passengers, bothered by the scorching sun, moved toward the shaded right side.

Fortunately, many other passengers, including children, were saved, because the sea was calm and the sinking happened in the afternoon.

Among the survivors were twins Mary Liza and Mary Jane Relona, 10; Chrisanto Baguna, 6; and Emiliano Adaptante, 11. They all jumped into the sea and swam, and were later rescued.

Most of the passengers were from Barangay Binalayan, the largest village of Maripipi and seat of the municipal government. Binalayan marks its feast day two weeks after the accident, on May 25.

Smallest province

The tragedy was farthest from the minds of the people and their officials who had worked together to make the anniversary celebration a big success.

Biliran, the smallest province in Eastern Visayas, is composed of eight municipalities and 132 barangays. It has a population of 140,274 (2000 census).

It became part of Leyte in 1768 when Samar and Leyte were divided, and remained as such until 1959 when it was constituted as a sub-province with the enactment of Republic Act No. 2141. In 1992, with the passage of RA 7160, Biliran became a separate province.

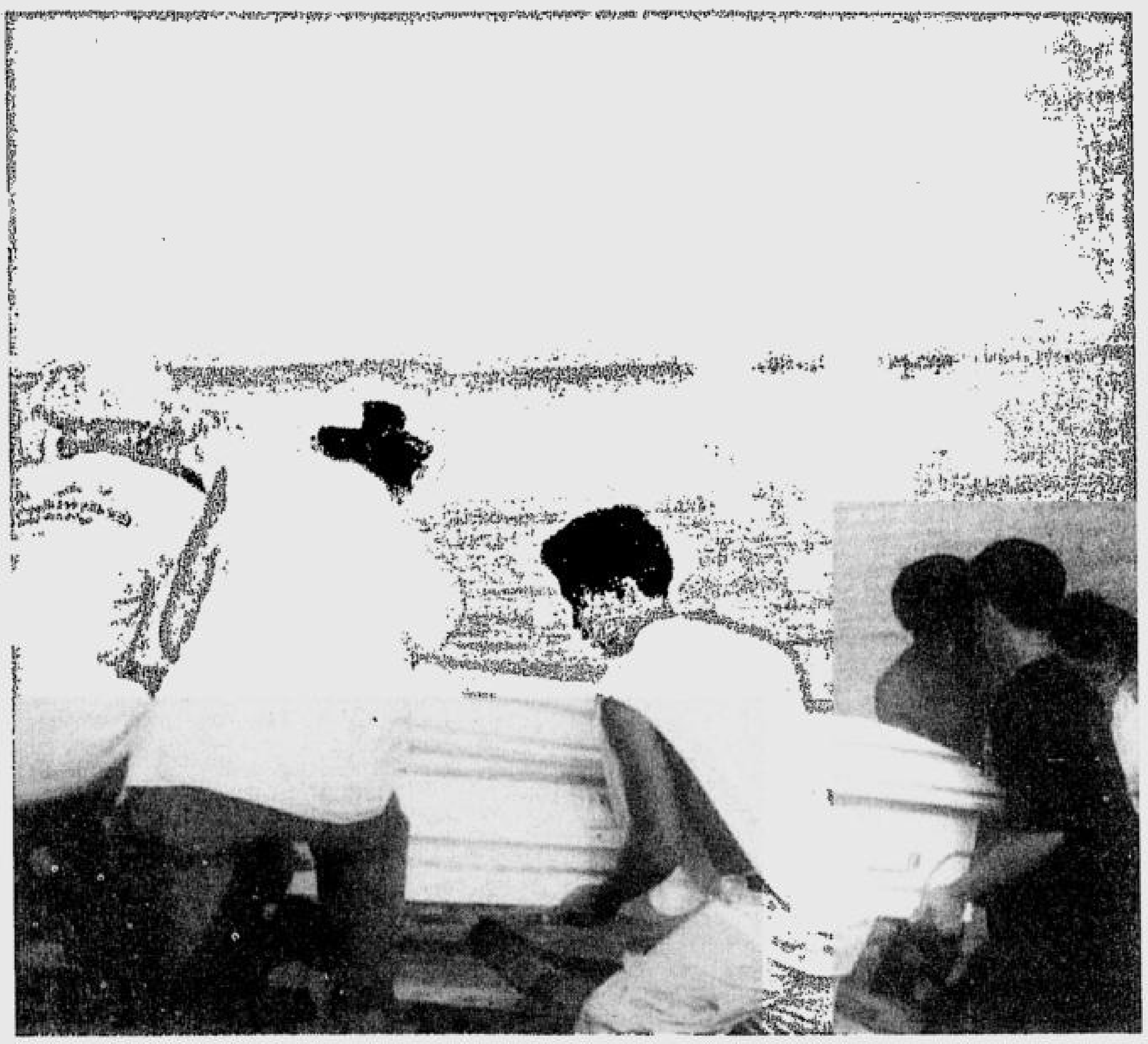
The province is bounded by the Visayas Sea in the north, the Carigara Bay in the south, the Samar Sea in the east, and the Strait of Biliran in the west.

Until the sea tragedy, the celebration was a big success as all the towns—Naval, Almeria, Biliran, Cabucgayan, Caibiran, Culaba, Kawayan and Maripipi—participated in the festivities.

President Macapagal-Arroyo even graced the coronation pageant of the 2002 Binibining Biliran and Miss Tourism Biliran.

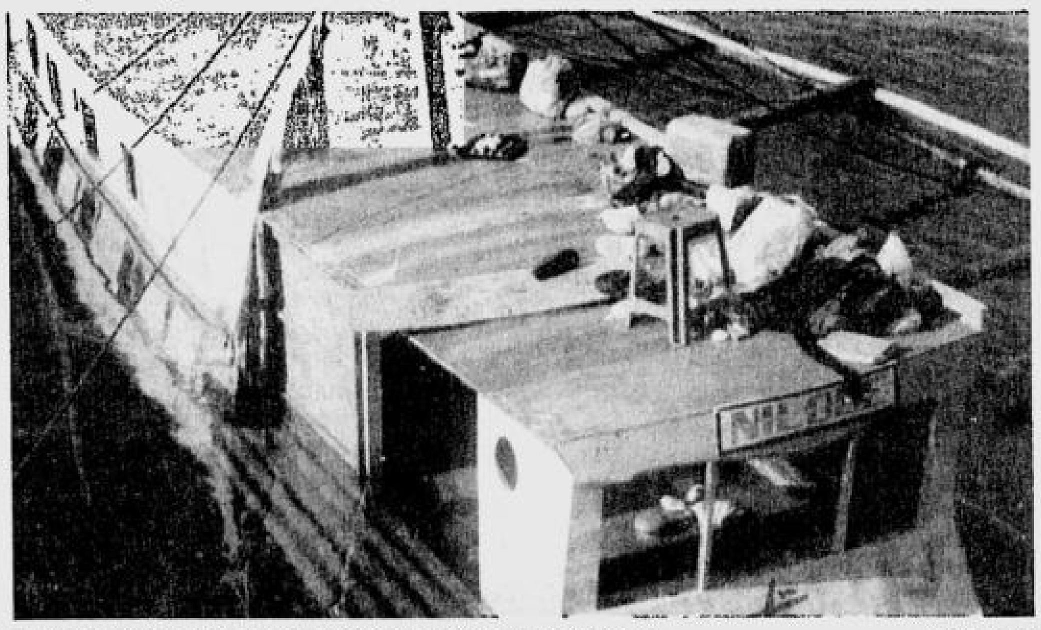
Her arrival, though, was not expected. As the President was visiting Tacloban City that day, Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina Sr. invited her to visit Naval again. Ms Macapagal first visited Naval in January.

In an interview early that week, Gov. Rogelio J. Espina, the congressman's son, stressed the need for the continued unity and cooperation of the people and for them to remain optimistic in their outlook in life. ***With a report from Joey A. Gabieta***



AFTER the dancing, the feasting during Biliran's fiesta, comes the unenviable task of these men to bring out the dead who drowned at sea.

JOEY GABIETA



THE ILL-fated boat a few moments before it sank at sea.

JOEY GABIETA

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From page A1

mine if there was a need to issue a warrant of arrest.

"This (manhunt) is more of political persecution. I fear the conduct of police and military intelligence men. I heard that there is a shoot-to-kill order," Reynaldo said.

Homobono Adaza, a counsel of Cardeño, also decried the manhunt against his client.

"Why should they order a manhunt? There's no case pending (against him)," Adaza said. He pointed out that police could mount a hunt for anyone only after charges had been filed and an arrest warrant issued.

"When you say there's a manhunt, anybody can just kill you. Any member of the media or individual can be killed, and they say there's a manhunt for him and he resisted," Adaza said.

Adaza, who turned up at the national police headquarters in Quezon City at past 2 p.m. to deliver a letter of complaint to Director General Leandro Mendoza, threatened to file charges against him and other police officials if they pressed ahead with the manhunt.

"What they're doing is a violation of the Constitution," Adaza said of Mendoza and other police officials. "We are not under martial law."

Mendoza was out when Adaza came. His secretary received Adaza's complaint.

Manhunt lawful

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, PNP spokesperson, maintained that the manhunt for Cardeño was lawful.

"Superintendent Cardeño is an active member of the police force. He should report for duty. He should show himself up to answer all the administrative and criminal charges leveled against him," he said.

Cardeño is facing administrative charges for not reporting for work since he was reassigned from the LTO to the police office in Western Visayas in October 2001, according to Espina.

Espina also disclosed that murder charges would be filed against Cardeño, Mostrales, Centeno and four other suspects, whose identities were withheld, on Monday in connection with the killing of Cervantes.

"If he thinks he's innocent, he should come out and answer the charges," Espina said, referring to Cardeño.

Adaza, however, said Cardeño would not show up unless the authorities lift the manhunt and file charges against him.

"He's willing to submit to any investigation, but they should stop the manhunt first. If they have anything against him, I'm representing Cardeño. They should show me whatever they have against him," he said. "If charges are filed, then he will answer the charges."

Adaza dismissed speculations that Cardeño had gone into hiding.

"Cardeño is around. He is not in hiding. If General Mendoza wants to talk to him and the others, why not? They can have an audience with him anytime. But lift the manhunt first because it's dangerous," he said.

Denial

Adaza claimed that Cardeño had denied any hand in the killing of Cervantes.

"Cardeño has been investigated before in connection with Baron Cervantes' killing. Over and over again, he denied any involvement in the killing," he said.

Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, a classmate of Cardeño's at the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1982), was present when Adaza dropped by Camp Crame. He, however, declined to comment on Cardeño's case.

Mostrales, the alleged gunman, had told investigators that Cardeño ordered him to kill Cervantes because he was becoming "a liability to the organization." He was later handed "a paltry sum" as reward.

Quoting Mostrales, police said that Cardeño had resented Cervantes' disclosure of an alleged destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration last December, involving him and several other military and police officers.

Hours before he was shot, Cervantes delivered an intelligence report on the plot to Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs, at the latter's residence in Muntinlupa.

A team of private lawyers looking into the killing of Cervantes expressed fears that Mostrales could have singled out Cardeño as the alleged mastermind to spare other people.

Leonard de Vera, who heads the seven-man panel, asked police authorities to allow his team to look into the pieces of evidence against Cardeño and Mostrales.

De Vera said it was possible that Cardeño was not the only one who ordered the killing of Cervantes.

"We don't want this to be another Nida Blanca (blunder)," he said. "We want to make sure that the evidence will stand in court."

Cervantes' father Rac said his family was confident that his son's killing would be solved soon.

'Coup not illegal if it succeeds'

From page A1

"The Supreme Court has already ruled on this, so how can it reverse itself?" the senator said.

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said People Power II, which resulted in Estrada's ouster and Ms Macapagal's installation as President, was "a peaceful coup."

At his regular press briefing, Afable was visibly uncomfortable as he tried to respond to questions on the issue and came perilously close to saying that the military-backed people's uprising was unconstitutional.

He acknowledged that "there is nothing in the letter of the (1987) Constitution" to justify the military's withdrawal of support from Estrada.

But he quickly added: "There is something in our political tradition, in our history and in the history of all nations that when the people lose faith in their government, they have the power to take it down.

"That has been done in so many countries in the world for so many centuries."

Pressed for a constitutional justification of then AFP Chief of Staff Reyes' withdrawal of the military's support from the then President, Afable said: "It is not written in the Constitution.

But it is implied in the Constitution that the people have sovereign power and that they have the power to determine the destiny and the future of their nation."

Quandary

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the complaint against Reyes, Villanueva, retired Generals Fortunato Abat and Leo Alvez, and "John and Jane Does" would not prosper if their decision to break from the Estrada administration would be treated as an act that was part of People Power II.

Desierto said his office was now in a quandary on whether to treat the alleged mutinous actions of Reyes et al. as separate from or included in the "totality" the people's action.

"In the legal profession, we have this principle that when rebels succeed, they suddenly become the legitimate authority," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "If we treat the alleged mutiny as part of Edsa II, then it cannot be pursued anymore."

Desierto said he was currently forming the team that would conduct the preliminary investigation on the complaint filed by Ninez Cacho-Olivares, Amado Macasaet, Angelito Banayo, Horacio Paredes and Herman Tiu Laurel.

He said Orlando Casimiro, the deputy ombudsman for the military, would head the team to be composed of "the best and brightest legal minds available."

"This is the first time that this law is being used in a complaint," he said. "This is why we have to be very careful in studying the law and the complaint."

Like Arroyo, Desierto noted that the Supreme Court had upheld Ms Macapagal's presidency and the popular uprising that forced Estrada from office.

"(The case) is a ticklish legal issue," Desierto said "We still have to decide whether it can be pursued in light of the Supreme Court decision."

He said the preliminary investigation could also find Sen. Panfilo Lacson equally liable for participating in a coup if it could be shown that he did the same thing done by Reyes et al.

Lacson, a valued ally of Estrada, was chief of the Philippine National Police in January 2001. Hours after Reyes and the other generals announced that they had broken from the government, Lacson and his own officers went on TV to announce that they had also done so.

Peaceful coup

Asked whether People Power II was a coup d'etat, Afable said: "It was a peaceful coup."

With members of the Malacañang Press Corps breaking into laughter, he said: "Yes that's true. Because in both denotation and connotation, a coup means a sudden seizure of power by a cabal of military officers, and it has really no relation to . . . a popular uprising. So you can call it a peaceful coup by the people."

He said it was difficult "to get the terms right" because "these are new in our history."

Afable was hard put to say whether then Vice President Macapagal, who was reported to have met with active and retired generals before Estrada's ouster, had conspired with Reyes et al.

"It is difficult to answer that question because to say that there was a conspiracy would really be unfair to those who were at the meeting," he said, adding:

"We do not know exactly what transpired in those meetings. They could have been talking about the situation outside, the sentiments of the public, the developments in the media. It would be very hard to label or brand such a meeting as a conspiracy."

Afable took exception to the charge that Reyes et al. had committed the act of mutiny.

"A mutiny is an unlawful act," he said. "By their very nature Edsa I and II are legitimate acts of the people..."

Afable also said the President had yet to react to the filing of the complaint. "I do not even know if she is aware of this at this moment," he said.

Justified

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said the complaint would not prosper in court.

He said the actions of Reyes et al. were "justified" because the then President and AFP commander in chief no longer had the support of the people.

By withdrawing support from Estrada at the time, the military was only preventing "civil strife" from occurring, Guingona said.

In separate statements, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. and Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano expressed support for Reyes et al.

"The court should throw out the complaint immediately," Albano said, saying the suit was "nothing but a publicity stunt based on hearsay."

Pichay said the act of Reyes and other generals was justified because they had the constitutional mandate to protect the people. ***With reports from Christine Herrera and Juliet L. Javellana***

Escrow funds merely remnant of 1 account

From page A1

Dorig ensured that the "1986 money transfers totaling US$50 million in 1986 from Marcos Liechtenstein foundations were 'kept within the family' of the Credit Suisse Group," Chaikin said. Fides Trust is a member of the Swiss Group.

"Year 2001 Swiss corporate records also disclose that Hans Jorg Furrer (Luterkofen-Ichert in Hunenberg) is admin-president of Hibiscus AG and that the Credit Suisse Trust in Zurich also employs him," Chaikin said.

Intimate relationship

"This provides additional evidence of the intimate relationship between Credit Suisse Trust and Hibiscus AG," he said.

Furthermore, Jorg Furer is also the president of Fides Partner AG, which has the same address as Credit Suisse Trust at Bleicherweg 33, 8027, Zurich, according to Chaikin.

Credit Suisse personnel, who transferred Marcos money and could still be dealing with Marcos funds, have been identified. But Swiss authorities have not interrogated them.

Besides Dorig and Furer, the others were identified as follows:

A. Credit Suisse (the bank)

1) Ernst Scheller, who had ties to the Marcos family as early as 1971 through six Marcos Foundations in Liechtenstein. He was a trustee of Azio Foundation and director of Charis, Scolari, Valamo, Rayby and Xandy foundations.

He was the main contact man for the Marcos family in 1986 at Credit Suisse in his capacity as senior vice president. He refused to receive the power of attorney issued by the late Ferdinand Marcos in March 1986 in favor of Michael de Guzman.

According to 1989 corporate records, Scheller was a manager of Credit Suisse Fides, postal address in Rumine Avenue de 37, 1005, Lausanne. He was at one time assistant manager of Credit Suisse, Pradeplatz 8, Zurich.

Scheller was associated with Alte Fides Trust AG in Zurich (formed on July 4, 1974, and canceled on April 30, 1996). The address of Alte Fides is Bleicherweg 33, 8002 Zurich, the same address as Fides Treuhandgesellchaft or the Fides Trust Co. or Fides SA, the main firm involved in the Marcos fund transfers.

His last registered home address was Adliswil, Kilchberg ZH. But there are telephone records of a certain Ernst Scheller at Lindestr 6, 8802 Kilchberg.

2) Dr. Markus Geel, in-house counsel for Credit Suisse (Paradeplatz 8, Zurich) from 1970 to 1986.

He arranged for the establishment of Xandy Foundation (at the request of Ferdinand Marcos) and Trinidad Foundation (at the request of Imelda Marcos).

3) Walter Fessler, former director of Credit Suisse and Bank Hoffman AG in Zurich.

In 1986, he was a director of Credit Suisse and member of the board of Bank Hoffman AG in Zurich whose major international shareholder is the Credit Suisse Group.

Fessler had strong ties to the Marcos family because of his membership in various Liechtenstein foundations of the Marcoses.

He was a member of the council of Xandy Foundation, first member of the Protective Body of Vibur Foundation and trustee of Azio Foundation. As first member of Vibur, he is consulted by the foundation's board "prior to any distribution (of funds) to the beneficiaries."

He is also a member of the board of directors of five Swiss registered subsidiaries of US aircraft manufacturer Lockheed. The Lockheed companies have been liquidated.

Lockheed bribes?

Chaikin said Fessler's ties to Lockheed raises suspicions that funds transferred from Xandy Foundation to Fides were bribes for arms purchased by the Philippines in 1969 and 1970.

4. Charles L Souviron, manager of Credit Suisse, 8 Paradepllatz, Zurich and member of the council of Xandy Foundation.

5. Rolf A. Klein, account representative of Credit Suisse in Hong Kong.

B. Credit Suisse Trust

In 1986, Credit Suisse Trust was known by a different name, Fides Trust. The key personnel of Fides Trust linked to the Marcos assets were:

1. Gustaves Aldophe Rychner, the most senior member of the Credit Suisse Trust with address at Blecherweg 33, 8002 Zurich.

He was a first member of the Protective Body of Vibur Foundation and of Avertina Foundation and was connected with Ernst Scheller through Alte Fides Trust Group AG.

2. Josef Dorig, employee of Fides Trust in Zurich in 1986. At one time, he was the vice president of Hibiscus.

3. Dr. Christoph de Weck, former employee of Credit Suisse Trust with signatory authority. He was until 2001 vice president of Hibiscus in Zug. He is also manager of Credit Suisse Co., Fides Partners AG, where he had signatory authority.

Weck is directly connected to Credit Suisse but he also has ties to Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) through his positions at Cantrade Privatbank AG in Zurich, a trust arm of UBS.

Weck's ties to UBS and Credit Suisse "raise the question whether he is a 'secret bridge' between the two giants," Chaikin said.

6 more Pinoy priests linked to US sex scandal

From page A1

les) was (the priests') base each time they flew to the US."

But Eduardo Tamayo refused to divulge the identities of the other priests. "I know how painful it can be for their families should these things be brought up again," he said. "Let's keep their families from getting hurt. I know how it feels when a family member is dragged into a scandal."

Sources here referred to Father Tamayo and his colleagues as "the Magnificent 7" when the scandal broke out in 1984.

The woman, Rita Milla, got pregnant in 1982—a result, she claimed, of the sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of the seven priests. Her child, Jacqueline, is now 19.

It was Father Tamayo who purportedly introduced Milla to the other priests with whom she had sex.

Relatives of the Tamayos quoted Milla as having identified a certain Father Tugade as the father of her child.

Prominent families

Other sources familiar with the case said the names of the other priests were published in newspapers in 1984. Most of the priests reportedly belong to prominent families in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

In 1983, Milla flew to the Philippines to deliver her baby. She stayed at the house of Eduardo Tamayo, who is also running a private clinic.

"She knew the priest who fathered her daughter. There was no doubt in her mind when she mentioned the name (of the priest)," Eduardo Tamayo said.

But Father Tamayo never talked about his and the other priests' supposed involvement with Milla, Eduardo Tamayo said.

"I never asked him, and he never said anything," Eduardo Tamayo said. He added that all the information had come from Milla.

He also said that while the new revelations about the sex scandal had reopened his family's old wounds, he bore no ill will against Milla.

"I wish them a happy life and all the luck in the world," he said. "I hope their dream of knowing the truth is fulfilled."

Why only now?

Still, one question is bothering Eduardo Tamayo.

"Why is (Milla) reviving these things only now?" he said. "Sure, her daughter wants to know who her father is. But why only now? You don't come of age at 19. You come of age earlier than that."

He wondered whether mother and daughter merely wanted to "ride on the issue of the sex scandals plaguing the Catholic Church, or get support for (Jacqueline)."

"There must be something deeper than that," he said.

Father Tamayo migrated to the United States in the late 1960s and started from the ranks. He was promoted parish priest as soon as he was granted immigrant status.

However, the scandal forced him to retire from his Los Angeles parish.

According to Eduardo Tamayo, the Los Angeles diocese still provided for Father Tamayo up to his death in 1996 (not 1999, as earlier reported).

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV
Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 p.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports

The Basketball Show at 12 noon on RPN 9

NBA Action at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Hamburg), Men's Quarterfinal Match at 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Star Sports

Nationals competing in Italy

By June Navarro

THE PBA-BACKED national team will have its first taste of international competition when the Nationals show their stuff in a series of tune-up games in Italy next month.

Head coach Jong Uichico and his troops will be pitted against an Italian team in Milan, Italy on June 2, a day before the Nationals take part in a three-day tournament in the town of Sodrio.

In Sodrio, a two-hour drive from Milan, the Asian Games-bound national team will compete against squads from Latvia, Ukraine and Slovenia before wrapping up its Italian tour on June 6.

"The Italian trip will definitely provide a lot of help as far as exposure and determining the improvement of the national team are concerned," said Uichico, who delegated his coaching chores in San Miguel Beer to Siot Tanquincen for the country's Asian Games cause.

While in Sodrio, Uichico said the team would find a training facility, which includes a weights room, to continue the specialized training and therapy of recovering players.

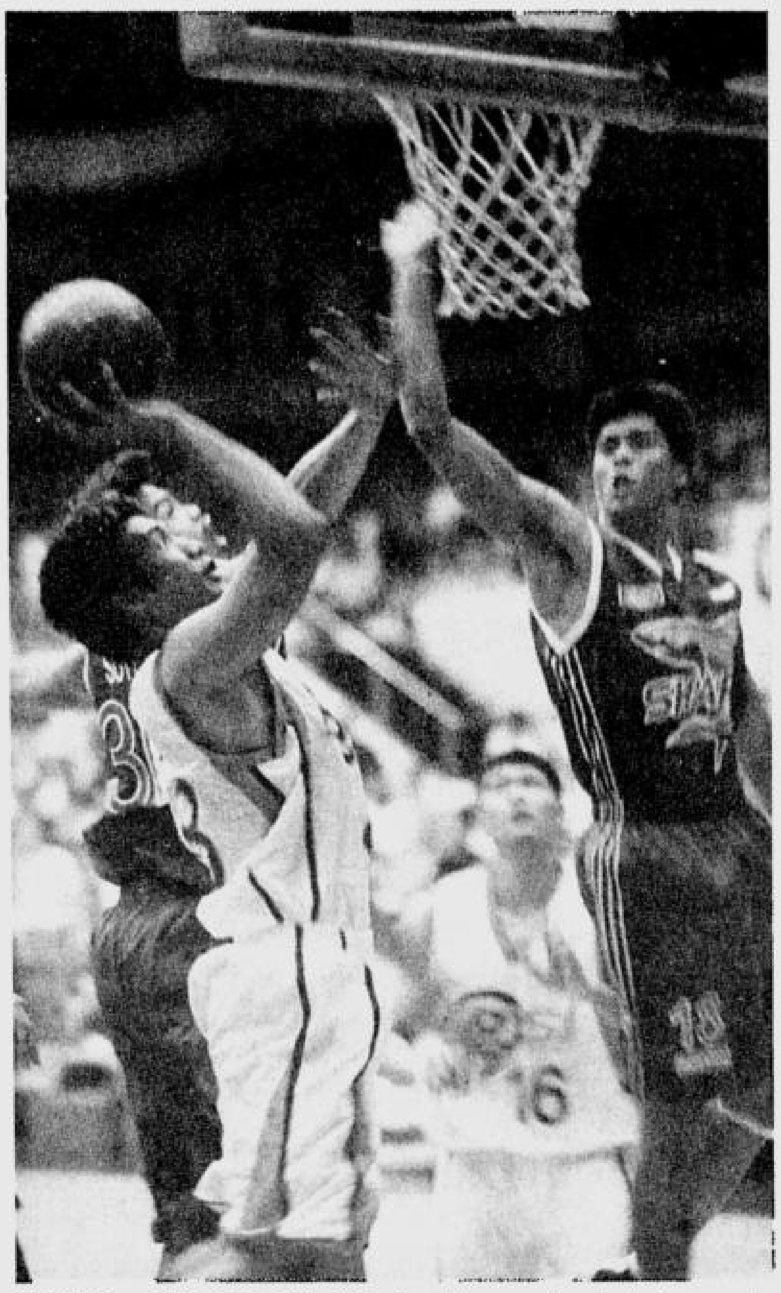
The training facility would serve injured players Noy Castillo (right foot), Danny Ildefonso (bone spurs, right ankle) and Andy Seigle (back injury) in good stead while relishing the Italian experience.

Without them, Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Dennis Espino, Rudy Hatfield, Mick Pennisi, Danny Seigle, Chris Jackson, Kenneth Duremdes, Dondon Hontiveros, Jeffrey Cariaso, Olsen Racela and Boyet Fernandez will to carry the fight for the Nationals.

"The trip is not about winning or losing but to determine the improvement of the national team since formal training started early this year," said Uichico.

"So far, the players have already eliminated their bad habits and became more defense-oriented. Against these European teams, we could somehow gauge our performance in the international scene," he added.

Blu enters semis; Ateneo wins


JAMES Yap of ICTSI-La Salle defies the tight-guarding Ervin Sotto and Gerald Ortega (18) of Shark Energy Drink (right) in the PBL Chairman's Cup elimination round at the Makati Coliseum. The Archers won, 63-56.

By Dennis U. Eroa

TITLE-HUNGRY Blu Sun Power leaned on a blistering finish to frustrate Ana Freezers, 83-73, and enter the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals last night at the Pasig Sports Center.

Playmaker Aries Dimaunahan conspired with Arnold Calo and Marlon Legaspi in a telling breakaway, 13-1 blast in the final five minutes which enabled the Detergent Kings to avert what could have been a monumental collapse.

In the second game, Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation fortified its hold of the solo leadership with a scary 67-66 squeaker over Kutitap Toothpaste. Coach Joel Banal's Blue Eagles improved their record to 8-3 card, while dropping the Sparklers to a do-or-die game with John O for the fifth and last semifinals seat.

Ateneo's win also gave Shark Energy Drink (6-5) the fourth semifinals slot due to the quotient system.

Blu's seventh win in 11 games enabled the Dioceldo Sy-franchise to join early qualifiers Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and ICTSI-La Salle in the five-team semifinals.

Ana bowed out with a 6-5 card. It actually finished tied with Shark Energy Drink and John O at the end of the double-round eliminations but was eliminated due to the quirks of the quotient system.

Hardly playing as a team, the Freezers Kings got clobbered in the early goings. Veteran Rey Mendez, Eric de la Cuesta and Dimaunahan powered Blu to a 25-9 first quarter lead.

Hounded by turnovers and poor shot selection, Ana trailed by 17, 31-14 early in the second quarter. Dondon Mendoza, Roland Pascual and Ronald Tubid played with heavy legs throughout as they were unable to defend properly.

Things started to change in the fourth quarter as Cebuano standout James Laygo shone in the perimeter and veteran Robin Mendoza made a couple of steals which unnerved the Detergent Kings.

A 16-4 blast enabled Ana to threaten at 65-66, 4:48 remaining but Dimaunahan came to Blu's rescue with a triple, 69-65. After an Ana miscue, Calo fired five straight points and Legaspi converted a layup which iced the game for Blu, 76-65, barely two minutes left.

BLU 83—Dimaunahan 23, Calo 17, Mendez 13, De la Cuesta 10, Legaspi 8, Gottenbos 4, Gatumbato 4, Roldan 4.

ANA 73—Laygo 13, Pascual 11, Mendoza R 11, Mendoza 9, Artadi 6, Tubid 5, Gumatay 5, De Guzman 4, Vilar 3, Chaneco 2, Giron 2, Oreta 2.

Quarters: 25-9, 48-35, 60-49, 83-73

RCPI vs Davao tonight

Game Today (St. La Salle Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Negros vs Davao

THE RCPI Negros Slashers and the Professional Davao Eagles are about equal in terms of depth and talent. When they clash in the MBA First Conference today, however, the Slashers enjoy the favorites' role.

Reason: Their 6 p.m. knockout semifinal will be held at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City where the Slashers are nearly invincible.

The Slashers downed the Eagles, 95-80, in their first collision on April 11 at the same venue, but the Eagles exacted revenge, 87-77, when they met anew on April 27 at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym.

The Slashers command a huge following and tonight the USLS Coliseum will surely be filled to the rafters as they eye their fourth championship appearance in the five-year-old league.

John Ferriols, the 1998 inaugurals MVP, will again lead the Slashers, who have adapted well to the coaching system of Jojo Villapando.

Supporting Ferriols are Reynel Hugnatan, who is being bothered by tendinitis, and recruits Jose Francisco, Tyrone Bautista and Carlo Espirirtu.

The Slashers, the reigning Southern Conference champion, also depend on their backcourt tandem of Dennis Madrid and Dino Aldeguer, both of whom can run the plays and score at the same time.

"We are ready as we can be," said Slashers general manager Babes Alvarez. "The boys are determined to bring joy to the Negrenses."

Roy Luarca

Junketeers

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IF THEY truly love their country, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and his commissioners should not join the national delegation to the Busan Asian Games in September because the government is cash strapped. They should heed the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo to take severe cutbacks in spending by not wasting precious dollars in an event where the PSC has no personality whatsoever.

"One reason why Philippine sports is not improving is because PSC officials are always travelling using public funds," former Philippine Olympic Committee president Col. Julian Malonso once said. "The PSC's mission is to promote sports at the grassroots and not to make the Asian Games a priority. Chairman Buhain and his commissioners should simply stay home to set a good example. Great leaders lead by example."

Now in his mid-70s yet exuding a remarkable intellectual energy, Malonso said the chairman and commissioners of the PSC receive salaries and exorbitant allowances, besides having luxurious offices, which drain the funds from Pagcor and the PCSO.

"They travel a lot and join international competitions with the excuse to find out if the POC and the National Sports Associations are spending PSC funds correctly."

Malonso recalled that one commissioner traveled with the boxing delegation to Cuba some years back and upon arrival wrote his observations on how Cuba produces world champions. "It was not necessary because there are magazines with well-researched and well-written articles about boxing. He only made it as an excuse to travel and was a burden to the delegation." The same commissioner, according to the records, also had the most number of foreign trips among PSC personnel spending more than P766,000 for his travels in two year's time. Just a few months back, he was elected president of an NSA in spite of an active case in the Ombudsman."

WHAT'S WITH THE PBA? Could the PBA be slowly losing its credibility and rapport with the paying public? The ongoing PBA Governors' Cup title series (between Alaska and Purefoods) is supposed to be interesting, but why are the fans shying away from the games at the Araneta Coliseum? What gives? GET WELL, RONNIE. I join his countless followers in wishing Ronnie Nathanielsz of Viva Vintage a speedy recovery from a recent heart surgery performed at the St. Luke's Medical Center. Get well soon, my friend.

***

SPORTS TRIVIA. Gonzalo Puyat & Sons Inc., one of the oldest industrial conglomerates in the Philippines, may well be called "The House that Billiards Built." Its founder, Gonzalo Puyat, relates Mario Roxas of Puyat Sports, was a poor man who left his birthplace of Pampanga in 1905 to seek a better life in Manila.

Tennis tourney May 20

REGISTRATION is now open for the Toby's-Philta Age Group Tennis Challenge 2002 slated May 20-26 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Entry forms are available at the Philta office (tel. 525-6434 and 523-6415) and all Toby's Sports outlets nationwide.

Deadline of entry form is on May 18. Entry fee is P200 per event.

Competitions are in the boys' 21-under, 18-under, 16-under, 12-under singles; girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under; boys' and girls' 18-under and 14-under doubles; and unisex 10-under boys and girls' singles or mixed.

There will also be a non-ranking event for beginners 12-years and under and unisex.

Express Tour lures 60 riders

SIXTY riders, 10 of them coming from the national team, will cover four stages of demanding routes traversing the Calabarzon growth area in Southern Tagalog during the launching of the FedEx Express Tour set May 30-June 2.

Stage 1 will kick off from Rizal Park and end in Batangas City, covering 168.5 kilometers of well-paved but tricky roads put up to test the skill and endurance of the riders.

It will be the second stage from Batangas City to Lucena, however, which will determine the mettle of the riders as the 154-km distance simulates a terrain similar to the famous Baguio-to-Baguio route.

"The second stage will definitely separate the boys from the men. The route is similar to the mountainous terrain of Baguio," said Paquito Rivas in Tagalog, president of the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines, the group tapped by FedEx as race managers.

Rivas, the 1979 Tour champion and original Eagle of the Mountain, was referring to the punishing slopes of Atimonan, Quezon, where riders are bound to traverse long and winding roads prior to a 500-ft climb.

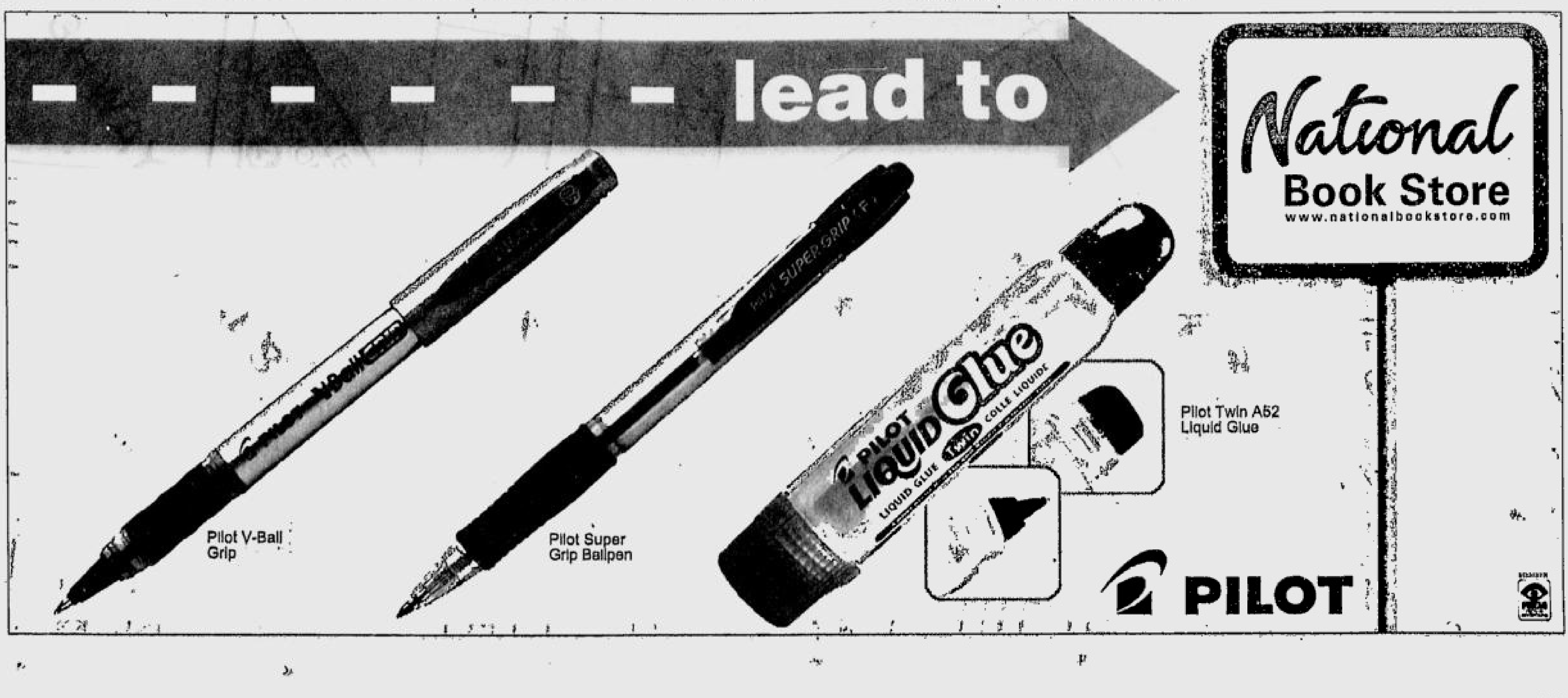
The riders, however, will have a respite in Stage 3, a short 81.5-km Team Time Trial route which demands more emphasis on speed.

The team which will emerge victorious in this stage will snare the Express Award, an innovation of the FedEx Express Tour.

Culmination of the four-day race, which drew Accel apparel as uniform sponsor, will be a 168-km hilly ride from Lipa City to the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

MICHELIN
P TURBO
zed
33

ACE DRIVER
Mike Potenciano (inset) of the ZED-MP Turbo Team Philippines seeks a reprise of his podium finishes in the opening rounds of the Asian Formula 2000 when the series resumes today and tomorrow at the Johor Circuit in Malaysia.



DFA assures Patafa Grand Prix athletes will get visas

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has assured the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association of its help in facilitating the issuance of visa to foreign athletes seeing action in the PSC-PCSO Grand Prix slated May 26 at the Rizal oval.

The move was designed to erase the sad experience of Syria and the former Soviet republics, which failed to compete in the recent Gov. Sering Cup due to a visa snafu.

"The DFA has assured me that that will not happen again," said Patafa president Go Teng Kok. "This will ensure success to a sporting spectacle like the Grand Prix."

Go said the Syrians, Kazakhs and Uzbeks have already been issued visas by the Philippine embassy in Thailand.

But Go said Pakistan's case was different.

"Pakistan athletes can't get visas from Thailand," he said. "Unfortunately they ran out of time to get them from the Philippines because the Grand Prix first leg is slated May 18 in India."

Go said he has been coordinating closely with DFA assistant secretary Belen Anota on this matter.

The other countries expected to attend are China, Korea, Japan, Chinese-Taipei, India, Sri Lanka, Oman, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

All the participants in the three-leg Grand Prix staged for the first time by the Asian Amateur Athletics Association were to converge in Bangkok before flying to Hyderabad, India, for the first leg (May 18) and Bangkok for the second leg (May 21). They will come in one bulk to the Philippines on May 23.

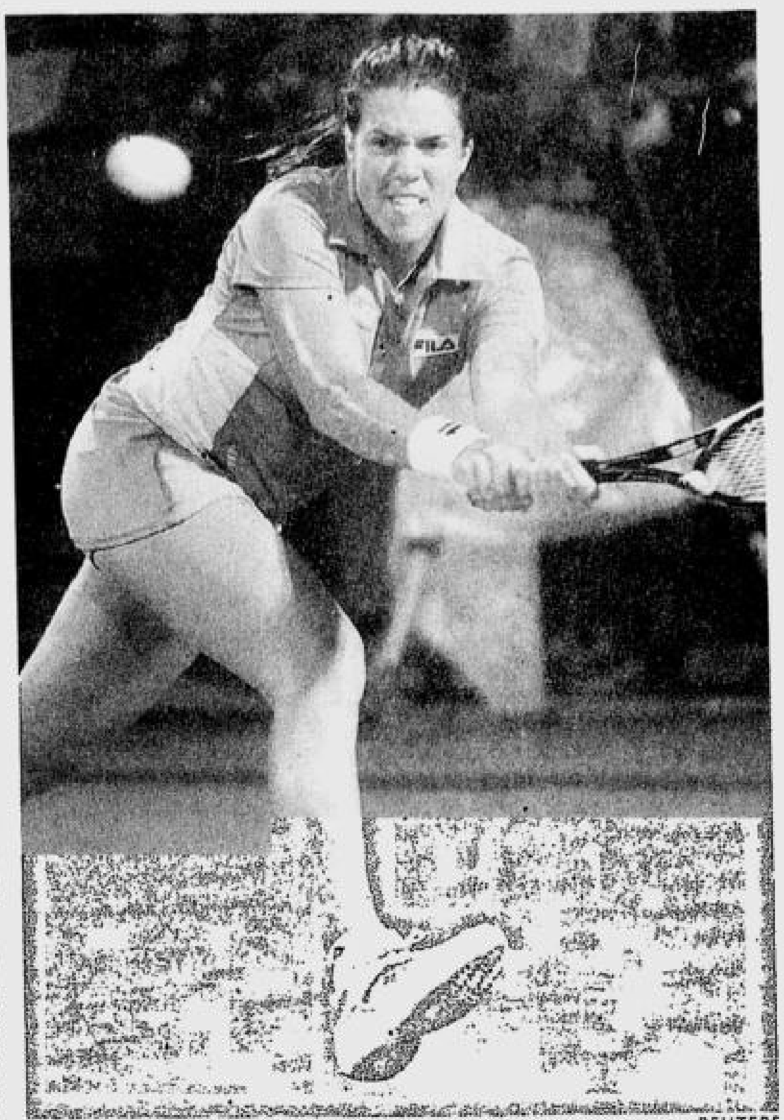
Villarete, De Guzman beat foes

LA SALLE Greenhills bets Raymond Villarete, Irwin de Guzman and Jandrick de Castro downed separate rivals yesterday to gain quarterfinal slots in the Head-Penn Metro Age Group Tennis Championships at the new Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City.

Villarete, the No. 1 seed in the boys' 14-under, stamped his class over James Pang, 6-2, 6-0, to advance against Korean Chung Soo Han, who eliminated No. 7 Johnwill Baldonado.

In other matches, No. 2 Ralph Barte defeated Daniel Macalino, 6-2, 6-0; No. 3 Christian Canlas outplayed No. 13 Gian Paolo Aguila 6-3, 7-5; No. 4 Pablo Olivarez clobbered No. 14 Franz Bonilla, 6-1, 6-0; No. 6 James Murrell trounced Russell Arcilla Jr., 6-3, 6-4; while No. 5 Miguel Antonio Pantua and No. 10 Hussien Macapendeg won by default.

De Guzman, seeded third in the boys' 18-under, rallied past Cebuano Oswaldo Dumoran, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4), to advance against James Dumoran, a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 winner over Baguio City's Marvelous Cortez.



REUTERS

CHARGING CAPRIATI

American Jennifer Capriati executes a backhand return against France's Mary Pierce yesterday in the Rome Masters Series in Italy. Capriati won, 6-0, 6-0. In other matches, Kim Clijsters beat Tatiana Panova, 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, and Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual downed an injured Anna Kournikova, 6-3, 6-2. Others: Serena Williams defeated Denise Chladkova, 6-1, 6-2; Amelie Mauresmo beat Ai Sugiyama, 6-1, 6-2; Justine Henin eased out Anne Kremer, 6-2, 6-4. In Hamburg, Germany, Lleyton Hewitt nipped Jiri Novak, 6-4, 6-3; Julien Boutter upset Andy Roddick, 6-3, 7-5; Marat Safin edged Juan Ignacio Chela, 7-6, 7-5; Roger Federer tripped Adrian Voinea, 7-5, 6-4.

Unbreakable Cojuangco Cup top bet

EMERGING track superstar Unbreakable is set to jumpstart his bid for the Philracom Triple Crown in the P1.67-Million Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup tomorrow at the Santa Ana Park.

Unbeaten in four starts, the 3-year-old colt is the overwhelming favorite in the 1,600-meter classic, having dominated the last two major Triple Crown run-up races against the cream of the current 3-year-old division.

Owned by brothers Jose Francisco and Eduardo Gonzalez, Unbreakable will be partnered anew with 2001 Jockey of the Year Patricio R. Dilema and will be facing the challenge of 11 other crack gallopers from the country's major racing stables.

Heading the roster of challengers for the coveted first leg of the Triple Crown, which is being held in honor of the first Philracom Chair, former Ambassador Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr., are last year's juvenile champions Golden Ballet and Mighty Strong, which have drawn posts 3 and 1, respectively.

Others in the hunt for the P1-million top purse are Al Baraq (11), Art of Rose (5), Cutting Edge (9), Magical Mark (2), Material Maker (8), Mica's Magic (12), Praetorian (4), Senor Raggaas (10), and What A Spell (6).

Mora advances

MANDAUE CITY—Fourth seed Michael Mora III barged into the quarterfinals following a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Cebuano Allan Alfafara last Thursday in the Mandaue Open Men's Championships at the Mantads court here.

Mora will face local Adonis Lominoque, who scored a 6-3, 6-2 decision over Manila's Raymundo Lopez.

Michael Quinones eliminated No. 10 Antonio Sagansay, 6-3, 6-4, to advance against second seed Adelo Abadia, who beat Letran Chiemel Mantua, 6-2, 3-0 (ret.).

Spiderman sweeps Bear Brand kitefest awards

SPIDERMAN the newest superhero in the country today, emerged as the winningest kite in the 10th and final leg of the Bear Brand Kitefest 2002, which came to a fitting end at the Rizal Park over the weekend.

An entry of Erik Nicolas, Spiderman bagged first place in the adults figure kite category over Pawikan of Nestor Fernandez and Gina Flying Fish of Isagani Cajulao Jr.

Nicolas' winning entry also bagged the "Super Kite" award or the biggest flying kite in the figure kite category.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar Jr. awarded the trophies and cash prizes to the winners, along with Nestle Philippines Inc. vice president for milk Gilbert Joven and actress Gretchen Barreto.

Nicolas' twin victory earned for him P11,000: P6,000 as figure kite winner and P5,000 as super kite awardee. He also received a trophy and gift packs from Nestle Phils. Inc.

The other winners:

College figure kite-1. Salvador Estrada (Wasp); 2. Anthony Mallari (Toro sa Siyuda ng Maynila); 3. Wilmar cajulao (apache eagle).

Adults geometric kite—1. Edgar Cano (Peace on Earth); 2. Randy Gueco (Isdang Matinik); 3. Benjamin Cajulao (Abstract)

College geometric kite—1. Marjo del Rosario (Parrot of the Airwaves); 2. Richmond Tiglao (Geometric Dragon); 3. Rey Baron (Aquatic Rainbow)

High School flat kite—1. Alvin Cajulao (Higantedng Paru-paro); 2. Gimma Cajulao (Bunny's Carrot); 3. Jeffrey Gerola (Expedition Butterfly)

Elementary flat kite—1. Jayson Cajulao (Giant Squid); 2. John Patrich (Simple kite); 3. Haries Regalla (HuMan Insects).

Saranggola ni Bear Brand-Ruzel Lim (Paro-paro), Alvin Iloseo (Kariton).

All other winners also received cash prizes, trophies and gift packs.

Aside from Manila, the annual kite flying competition was also held in Dumaguete City on Feb. 3. Cabanatuan City on Feb. 10; Tacloban City on Feb. 24; Naga City on March 3; Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on March 10; Davao City on March 17; Baguio City on April 7; Cagayan de Oro City on April 14; and Kalibo, Aklan on April 28.

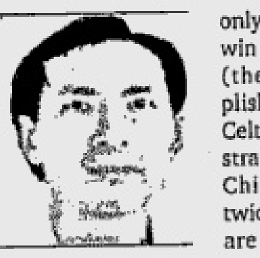
Football festival

FOOTBALL, the world's No. 1 sport, gets a big boost again in the Philippines with the holding of the Puma Football Festival June 1-3 at the Glorietta Activity Center. The Puma Football festival, staged by Puma and IMG, is a three-day event that promotes football through fun games, clinics and an exhibition match by the national women's team and a four-on-four street soccer tournament. Unlike plain soccer, "street" soccer is played by four players-a-side instead of 11 and uses a smaller playing area.

Lack of playoff experience

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



THE 2002 NBA playoffs are down to the Final Four.

Both best-of-seven affairs, the No. 1 seed New Jersey Nets take on the No. 3 seed Boston Celtics for the East championship. No. 1 seed Sacramento Kings tackle the No. 3 seed and two-time reigning NBA champions Los Angeles Lakers in an all-California matchup for the West crown. The conference final winners subsequently face each other in the NBA Finals, another best-of-seven series with a 2-3-2 (home-road) format.

New Jersey and Sacramento have the homecourt advantage in the conference final series against their respective opponents. Significantly, though, it was the Celtics and Lakers who triumphed in their head-to-head regular duels with identical 3-1 victories over the Nets and Kings.

The lack of playoff experience by New Jersey and Boston could be a huge factor against them in the NBA Finals. That's why a lot of NBA watchers believe the winner of the West title series between Sacramento and LA will be the hands-down favorite to capture the Larry O'Brien championship trophy.

The Nets, who are in a conference final for the first time ever in their NBA existence, and the Celtics, who are seeing action in the East finals for the first time in 14 years, did not even qualify for the playoffs the last three years or longer. Previously, New Jersey last made the postseason in 1998 while Boston was out of it since 1995.

Boston took the final three of its four-game season series against New Jersey. Sacramento lost thrice to the Lakers but one came in a meaningless encounter (at least for Sacramento) as the Kings had already wrapped up the best regular record in the league.

The Lakers, bidding to become only the sixth team in NBA history to win three consecutive championships (the Minneapolis Lakers accomplished the feat from 1952-54, the Celtics set an NBA record with eight straight titles from 1959-66 and the Chicago Bulls turned in the trick twice from 1991-93 sand 1996-98), are in an identical situation in the West finals as they were a year ago—without the homecourt advantage against the regular-season leader. In 2001, the boys from Tinseltown played the first two games of the series on the road but nonetheless registered a 4-0 sweep of the regular season topnotcher Spurs.

Injuries may play a pivotal role in the Sacramento-LA series. Serbian forward Peja Stojakovic, the Kings' No. 2 scorer in the playoffs with 18.3 points per game, will miss at least the first two games due to a sprained right ankle. The 6-9 Stojakovic hurt his ankle in Game 3 of the West semifinal series against Dallas and was sidelined in the last two games of a 4-1 victory. The Kings, however, overcame his loss with outstanding performance from first-string playmakers Mike Bibby, who averaged over 21 markers in the five-game series, valuable sixth man Bobby Jackson and Stojakovic's replacement Hedo Turkoglu.

The Lakers themselves are not injury-free. Kobe Bryant has had to produce fourth-quarter miracles in the last three games of the five-game West semifinal success against the Spurs and that's because his fellow superstar Shaquille O'Neal is terribly hurting with an assortment of ailments. Shaq has an arthritic right toe, a cut on his right index finger (suffered in the series opener against San Antonio) that required stitches and left his hand numb and a sprained left ankle that affected his mobility and jumping ability. If you're wondering why Shaq sported a sullen face during the series against the Spurs, that's because he's in pain. Of course, O'Neal does not like to use injuries as an excuse for losing.

With Shaw hobbled by injuries, the Lakers could be in rough seas. Unless Kobe comes to the rescue once again.

Ucap, LGBA collide today at Mandaluyong Coliseum

STALWARTS of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines and Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association collide in today's special 4-cock derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

To host the event are Ucap and LGBA matchmakers Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo.

The Mandaluyong Coliseum management announced that the entrance fee for today's derby is P300 (admission) and P500 (ringside).

Among Ucap stalwarts seeing action are Vic Yu (two entries), Ucap president Butch Macasaet, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, engineer Sonny Lagon, Raymond Velayo, Esting Teopaco, Pol Estrellado, Alex Tang, Mayor Gerry "Boy" Espina, Boyboy Roa, Mauro Prieto, Arnold Mendoza, lawyer Ram Lopez, Benjie Lim, Joel Fernando, Boy de Roca, Pepito Ngo and lawyer Rudy Salud.

From the LGBA are Francis Lumunsad, former Congressman Amado Bagatsing, Commisioner Jun Sevilla, Judge Paneda, LGBA president Boy Diaz, Blandy Tolentino, Bobby del Rosario, Boyet Plaza and Mike Bunedia.

Mandaluyong Coliseum's 2002 International 9-Cock Derby second leg is slated on June 4, 6 and 8 with OPMI president Vic Yu and Ramon Mansenares as hosts.

Meanwhile, Bumble Bee Balbina of former ambassador Danding Cojuangco emerged as solo champion (six points) in last Thursday's 12th Ucap 7-Cock Derby.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Gerard Cantada beat Marion Dizon in a sudden-death playoff to capture the 13-14 age group crown of the RPGA national age group championship at the Valley course in Antipolo.

Anticipating Back-to-School?
Marie's Gouache Colour
Marie's Crayons
Marie's Acrylic Colour
Marie's Poster Color

MAY 23 BOUT

Espinosa helps re-ignite Bay Area's boxing fire

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, California—He's not the greatest thing since sliced bread, but Luisito Espinosa is contributing to the re-emergence of local boxing in the Bay Area.

Luisito's appeal among Filipino and Mexican boxing buffs—boxing's traditional supporters—has ostensibly rekindled the sport's flame among fans from the Presidio to Pittsburg, and from San Mateo to San Jose.

The comebacking Espinosa (45-10, 26Kos), will face Colombian Ever Beleno (38-10, 35 KOs) in a featherweight tussle, the main event of a five-bout card at San Jose's Compaq Center on May 23.

The 34-year-old Luisito is fighting again to strengthen a friend's resolve to rise from the ruins of drugs.

Dispelling a myth

The two-time world champion is also seeking to dispel the myth that he is out to stretch the illusion of a boxing prowess based on past glories.

Noel Rivera, Espinosa's manager, knows that should Luisito lose the fight to Beleno, there really will be no way back for the former boxing superstar. It's not rocket science to see Beleno's motives, either. Both fighters had been around the block several times they're wishing upon the same star for a win.

The show is being promoted by the newly formed Golden Boy Promotions owned by WBC super welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya. It will mark boxing's return to San Jose.

The city, center of world-renowned Silicon Valley, has not hosted a professional boxing match since 1998. De La Hoya's outfit has committed to promote three more cards at the Tank as boxing in the Bay Area re-emerges from years of dormancy.

Sharon Stone at ringside

In San Francisco, local boxing was such a rare occurrence that a match held at the Civic Center last year drew 5,000 fans, paying as much as $250 a ticket, compared to the $85 for ringside for the Espinosa-Beleno fight.

Boxing observers noted that the upcoming fights at the Compaq, home of the professional San Jose hockey franchise, appeared to have sparked a change of heart by the San Francisco Chronicle. The newspaper had stopped covering local fiesta-fistianas in earnest, and since nobody else did, the sweet science got out of the mindset of legions of grassroots aficionados.

But the newspaper recently jump-started its local boxing coverage with a full-spread feature of Luisito training in Daly City.

Said Hermie Rivera, Espinosa's former manager: "Even Phil (Bronstein, editor in chief of the Chronicle) and his wife Sharon (Stone) have promised to see the fight. I bet you, Luisito will not disappoint them."

ESPINOSA: Last hurrah.

NOEL Rivera (left) and Espinosa.

Elorde to stage world title fights next month

THE ELORDE Sports Center, built by the legendary former world champion Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, will stage the World Boxing Council international light flyweight championship and the Pan Asian Boxing Association flyweight title bout next month.

WBC international light fly champ Juanito Rubillar will stake his crown against former WBA minimum weight titlist Joma Gamboa, while Pan Asian champ Archiel Villamor defends his title against Jerry Pahayahay.

Fighting in the supporting bouts are WBC international flyweight champion Randy Mangubat fighting Ramie Laput and WBC international minimum weight champ Ernesto Rubillar squaring off with Flash Villacura.

The event is supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Family Rubbing Alcohol, SM Southmall and SM Makati.

Built in 1975, the Elorde Sports Center has produced top Filipino fighters as it vigorously trains young and aspiring boxers throughout the year.

Situated in Sucat Road in Parañaque City, ESC boasts of a wide array of sports and recreational facilities like swimming pool, tennis court, billiards hall, cockpit and the Grand Flash Ballroom.

SPORTSWATCH

Cagayan de Oro joining Youth chesss

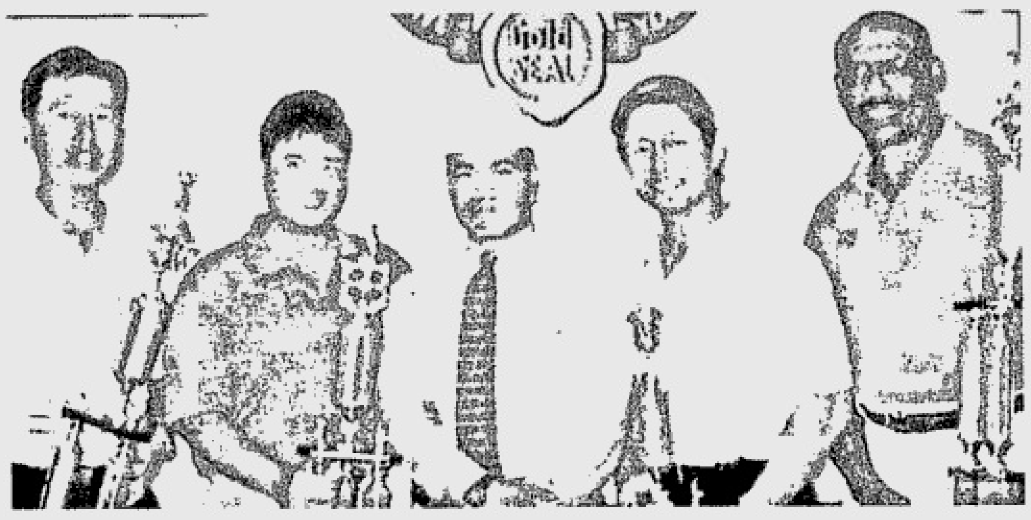
A 10-MAN delegation from Cagayan de Oro will participate in the National Youth Age-Group Chess Championship (Boys and Girls) on May 25-29 at the 2/F Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Supported by Governor Antonio Calingin, the team, composed of 10-year-old Sittie Halia Sabo, Raphael Pasimio, Richelieu Salcedo III, Randolph Dalauta (12), Boris Michael Diez (14), Lore Shyl Culzon (16), Bryan Jose (16), Silverio Abasolo (18) and Jaime Frias (20), will compete in all age-group divisions: 10-under; 12-under; 14-under; 16-under; 18-under and 20-under. For other details, call 435-1114, 435-1113, 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Duathlon Open accepting registration

THE SAN Miguel Light Double Dare Duathlon Open is now open for registration. The race will be a 5K run, followed by a 20K bike, then capped with a 5K run at the UP Academic Oval. For more details, call Jessie Go, 0917-813-9385; Valeree Nolasco, 09176940738 or Thumbie Remigio, 09173858322.

UP Beta Sigma to hold President's Cup

THE UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association Inc. holds on May 24 the President's Cup in honor of its president, Brod. Romy Lumauig, its officers and board of directors for 2002. Tee-off time is 7 a.m. at Villamor. The golfest will conclude with the monthly "Barkadahan ng mg UP Fratmen," which will be hosted by Beta Sigma. For more details, call 921-9325.



EMBASSY WINNERS

Winners of a golf tournament in honor of US Embassy counselor Sonny Busa pose for posterity. From left are Francis Siasat Jr. (runner-up lowest gross), Jojo Guingona (champion lowest gross), Busa, lawyer Michael Toledo (champion lowest net) and Dennis Brooks (runner-up lowest net).

Money for 355 athletes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporations will fete 355 Filipino athletes who have brought honor to the country over the last 50 years on May 27 at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. President Macapagal-Arroyo will award cash incentives to the athletes under Section 9 of R.A. 9064 (Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001). Pagcor Director Luis Carlos said the affair will be a first in the history of Philippine sports.

Palaro postponement sought

THE DEPARTMENT of Education management committee yesterday sought for a one-week postponement of the Palarong Pambansa slated on June 3-10 in Naga City. The committee said they need more time to prepare the delegates for the Games and asked that the event start on June 8.

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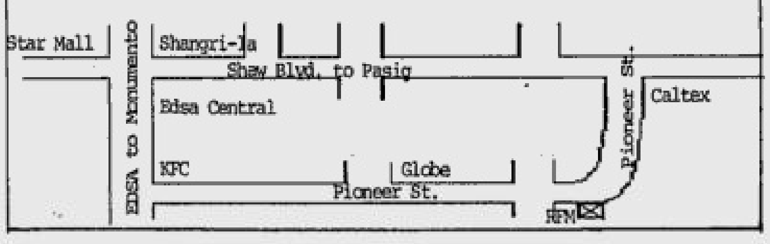

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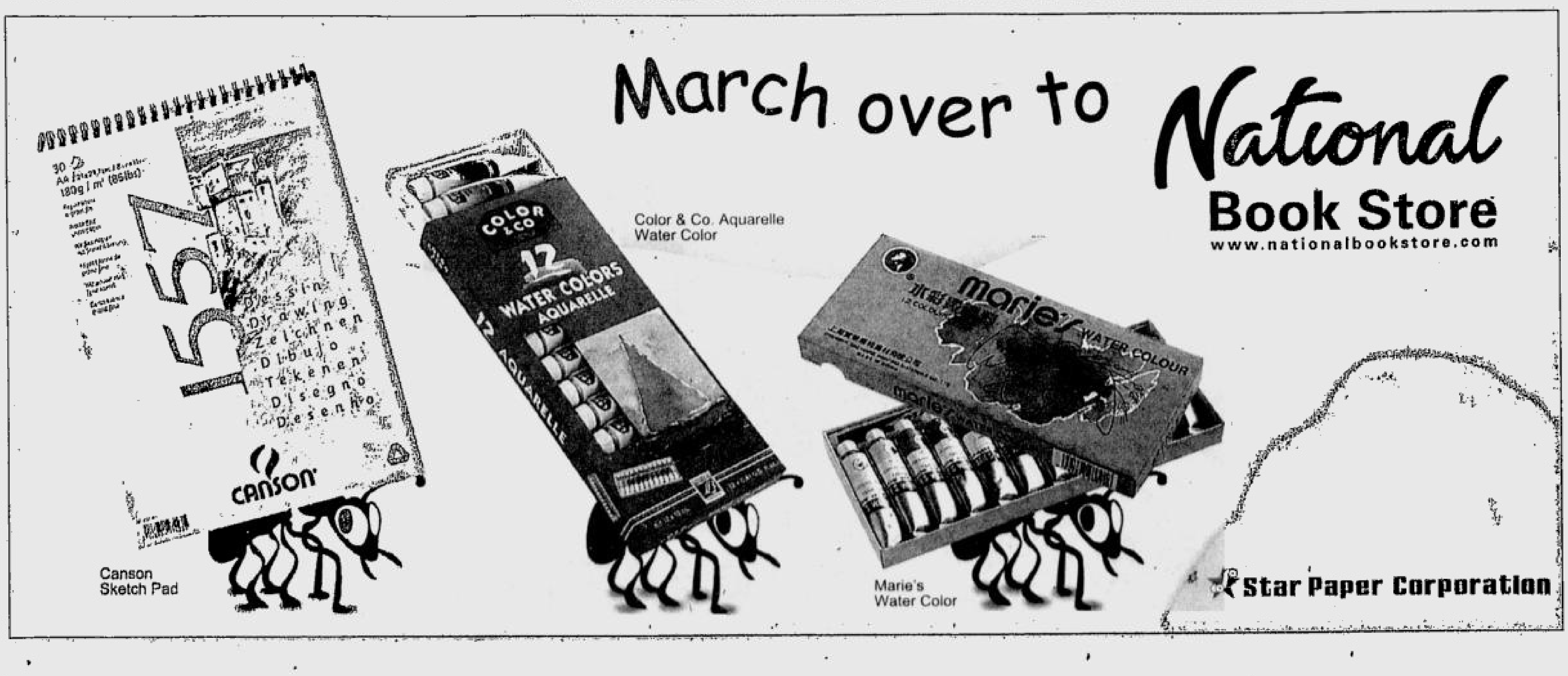
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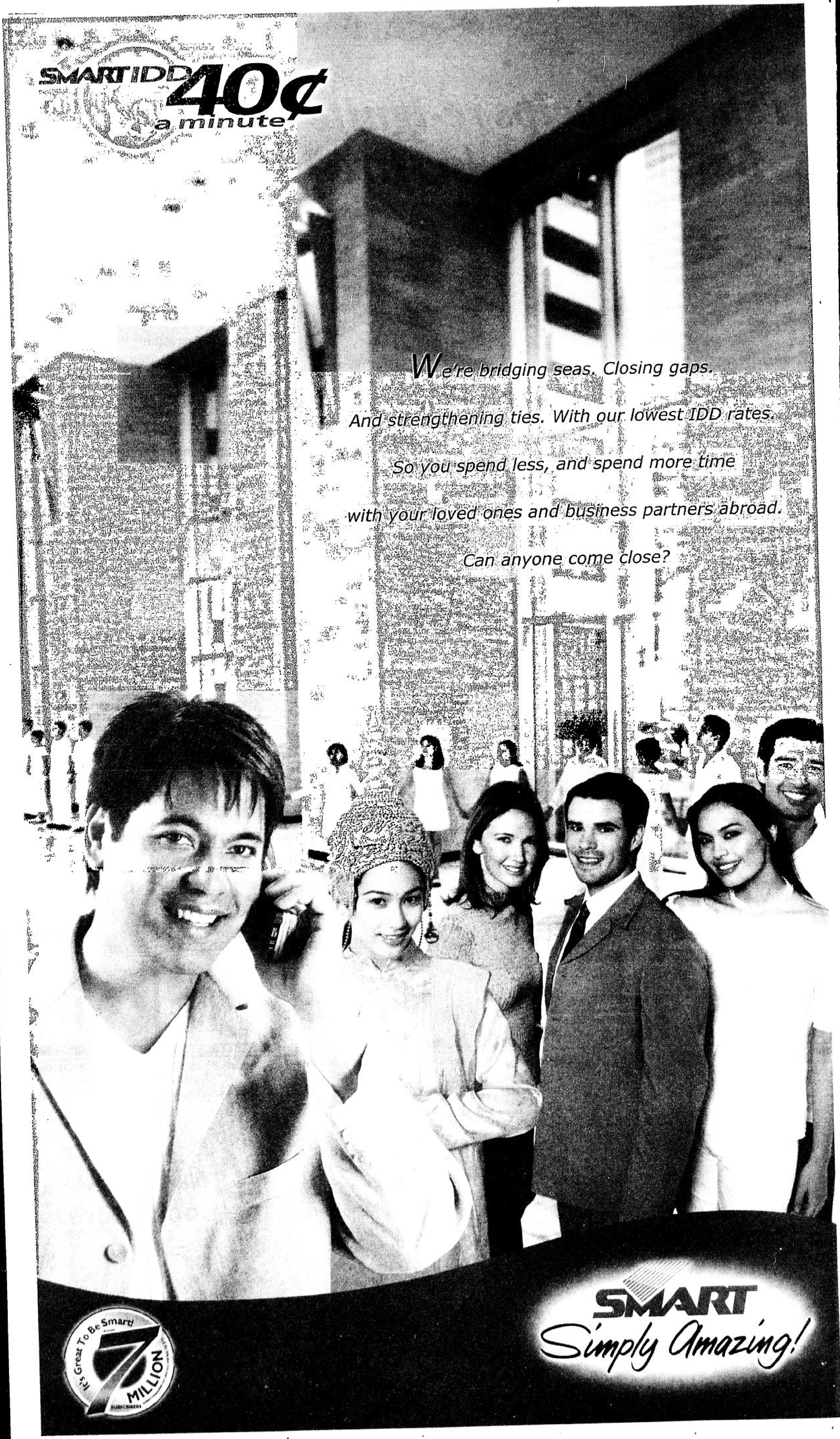
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Death for 4 drug pushers /A24

Widow forgives cops who killed husband

By Agnes E. Donato

"IF GOD can forgive, what right do I have not to forgive them?"

This was how Clavel Lozada, the widow of the man, who was mistakenly killed by members of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, accepted the public apology the PNP had issued to her family and the family of Lorna Uson, who was also killed in the incident.

Mrs. Lozada's husband Fernando, a chief steward of the New World Hotel, was driving his daughter Clarissa, 17, and her friend Uson in his Mitsubishi Lancer to a party in Quezon City, when members of the PNP allegedly mistook them to be part of a kidnapping syndicate.

"Whatever I do, I can't bring my husband back to life anyway," Mrs. Lozada said sadly.

Time has apparently healed the wounds of Mrs. Lozada and has helped her finally forgive the policemen who shot dead her husband and Uson, and

WIDOW/ A24

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE SAT MAY 18

BUMA	RAVE PARTY	NO ENTRANCE FEE BUY 1 TAKE 1 ON LOCAL BEERS ☎ 896.1939
Cowboy Grill ALMANZA LAS PIÑAS	PUZZLES THINKERS W/ JOGRAD	THE DAWN MAY 21 ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARIZUELA ST., MAKATI	ICE KENDI HIMIG/MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill	NEXT EPISODE ZEST	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MIX UP/ MOODZ	THE DAWN MAY 28 ☎ (049) 511.7268
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	GLADY'S & D'BOXERS W/ K DEGREE/ NEW LEVEL	☎ 373.5110
STA. MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR CAROLINA ST	SOUL AT WORK D' BUMP	☎ 522-0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe·Grill·Restaurant TM KALAW LUNETA, MANILA	BIG NITE OUT	P 200 CONSUMABLE 9 PM ☎ 400-7438/39

OUTSIDE METRO MANILA

Cowboy Grill BIÑAN, LAGUNA	STREETLIFE BROWNIE/MUSIC CIRCUIT	THE DAWN MAY 23 ☎ (049) 511.7268
KAMPO BRGY SUNGAY STAGAYTAY CITY	HEAT OF THE NIGHT	☎ 373.5110
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	E-MERGE	MULATTO MAY 31 BIKINI OPEN MAY 24 ☎ (045)961.3360

Mercado mate a suicide, say probers

By Alcuin Papa

RAQUEL Ambrosio, the live-in partner of Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, committed suicide, according to the Makati City police, which finally ended their investigation of the case.

MERCADO

In a report submitted to Makati City chief of police Supt. Jovito Gutierrez Jr. on May 14, the Makati City police Criminal Investigation Division chief, Supt. Jose Salido, homicide section officer-in-charge SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman and investigator PO2 Juancho Ibis concluded that Ambrosio, 24, took her own life on the night of April 24.

Ambrosio, 24, was found bleeding from a gunshot wound in the stomach in the bedroom of her condominium unit on the 28th floor of the Peak Tower on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Ambrosio's friends, Irene Bautista and Noemi Bernabe (earlier reported as the Bartolome sisters) said they found Ambrosio and brought her to the Makati Medical Center where she died the following day.

Investigators based their conclusion on the testimonies of Ambrosio's maid Allen Gavillanggoso, Bernabe and Bautista and on an affidavit executed by Mercado.

But copies of Mercado's affidavit, which was supposedly submitted to police earlier this week, were not made available to the media.

SPO4 Timtiman said on Thursday that Mercado had not submitted any affidavit.

According to police, Mercado said in his affidavit that he arrived in Ambrosio's condominium unit at about 4 p.m. of April 24 accompanied by Lito Orillaza. After Orillaza left at about 7 p.m., Mercado and Ambrosio had watched television until 8 p.m. p.m. before eating their dinner, police said.

MERCADO/ A24

Nurse's slay witness snubs subpoena

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIMARY witness against Marybeth Lopez de Leon, the woman suspected of shooting to death her husband's private nurse in Las Piñas last month, did not attend yesterday's preliminary investigation at the city prosecutor's office, bolstering fears he had gone into hiding.

Wensis Tablang, De Leon's driver and bodyguard, was supposed to clarify his testimony on the killing of private nurse Belma Abella, particularly on the seating positions of Abella and De Leon inside the BMW sedan where the shooting allegedly took place, said state prosecutor Mario Mangrobang.

The Abellas' lawyer, Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr., earlier asked police to look for Tablang because he could no longer contact the witness at his houses in Caloocan and Quezon City.

Last week, Mangrobang sent the subpoena to Tablang's registered addresses in Brixtonville, Camarin, Caloocan City, and in Kamias, Quezon City.

Tablang is considered the primary witness in the case since he supposedly saw De Leon alighting from her BMW holding a Glock 9-mm pistol right after the shooting of Abella on April 12.

In the car was a bloodied Abella with a gunshot wound in the chest, according to Tablang's testimony.

NURSE'S SLAY/ A24

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A senator's useless proposal

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

NOTHING will come out of the proposed Senate investigation of two private water utility firms, Maynilad Waters Services Inc. and Manila Water Co.

The proposed probe would center on why the two firms have been allowed to increase their rates by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, now a government regulatory body.

The proponent, Sen. Ralph Recto, is just wasting his time.

***

The Maynilad Water is owned by the Lopezes, the same family that owns Meralco and ABS-CBN, the country's most powerful radio-TV network.

The Manila Water is owned by the Ayala, the most powerful name in big business. Because of their stature in the country's commerce and industry, the Ayalas can dictate on big business which political candidates to support and donate money to.

Both the Lopezes and the Ayalas did not get to buy what used to be the MWSS if they were not very powerful and influential.

***

No other senator or congressman in his right mind would approve Recto's proposal to investigate the Lopezes and the Ayalas.

Remember, Sen. Recto, three of your colleagues in the Senate are there because of the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN.

Para mo ring binangga ang Iglesia in Cristo, Mr. Senator!

***

Talking about ABS-CBN, why does it continue to employ Noli de Castro as host of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" when he's already a senator?

The program made De Castro a senator. The TV network should have eased him out after he was elected. The network does not lack for talents to replace De Castro.

But the network has retained De Castro, who was No. 1 among the winning candidates, as host of the most popular telemagazine. Why? Because the Lopezes want to hold him by the neck.

So, Mr. Senator from Batangas, when push comes to shove in a future confrontation with the Lopezes, you'd be left alone shoving back. Most of your colleagues will go behind the Lopezes to see to it that they will not fall from your shove.

***

Starlite Cargo Xpres Inc. has been dunning Sen. Panfilo Lacson for payment for delivering his campaign materials to far-flung places during the last election.

But the senator has consistently refused to pay the P128,337.080 he reportedly owes the freight company.

Ang dami-daming pera sa abroad, hindi mabayaran ang maliit na utang! Masyado ka namang kuripot, Mr. Senator!

Lest the litigious senator file another libel suit against this writer, my allegation that he owes the freight company the above-mentioned amount is supported by a letter sent by the firm's credit and collection department to Mr. Lacson. The letter was dated 10 April 2002.

***

Another journalist was killed in Pagadian City, the second in two years.

Edgar Damalerio, 33, managing editor of the weekly Zamboanga Scribe and commentator of RPN 9-dxKP radio, was gunned down last Monday about 300 meters from the city's police headquarters. In November 2000, Olympio Jalapit Jr., another hard-hitting broadcaster, was killed by unidentified gunmen.

There is no way the killings of both journalists will be solved if the city police continue to handle the investigation.

***

Investigators should either come from the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group or the National Bureau of Investigation which have their headquarters in Manila.

The city police chief defers to local politicians, some of whom are suspected to be behind the murders of Damalerio and Jalapit. Two of these politicians are a husband-and-wife team.

Some policemen are also possible suspects because they were criticized by Damalerio.

***

The Asian Development Bank might not fund the construction of the instrument landing system at the Davao City Airport. The ILS would upgrade the airport to international standards.

The reason given by the ADB, according to my sources, is that the Air Transportation Office wants the construction to undergo a re-bidding. The re-bidding is being rigged, the sources said, to favor a company that lost in the first bidding.

The winner, Airports Systems International Inc. of Kansas City, is up in arms as it wants to undertake the construction immediately.

The intervention of Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez is needed so the construction will proceed as planned.

***

Parents, ask your kids when they go bar-hopping. And if they mention Orange Bars in their list of places they go to, you should be alarmed.

Orange Bar is located on Makati Avenue. According to a birdie, Orange is the place where rich kids go to if they want to get Ecstasy, a drug of choice among yuppies and teenagers.

Ecstasy is a very dangerous drug. It has caused thousands of deaths in Europe and the United States. An amphetamine, it produces heightened sexual sensation.

Death for 4 drug pushers

By Tina Santos

TWO Hong Kong nationals and two Filipinos yesterday each received two death sentences and were ordered to pay a total of P20 million after a Malabon City court found them guilty of drug pushing and illegal possession of marijuana.

In a 26-page decision, Judge Benjamin Aquino Jr. of the Malabon Regional Trial Court branch 72 meted out death sentences to Luk Wai, Cheng She Wah, Danilo King and Danilo Regala, of Barangay Catmon, Malabon City.

Court records showed that Malabon policemen seized more than 90 kilograms of marijuana from the four men during a buy-bust operation on Dec. 19, 2001.

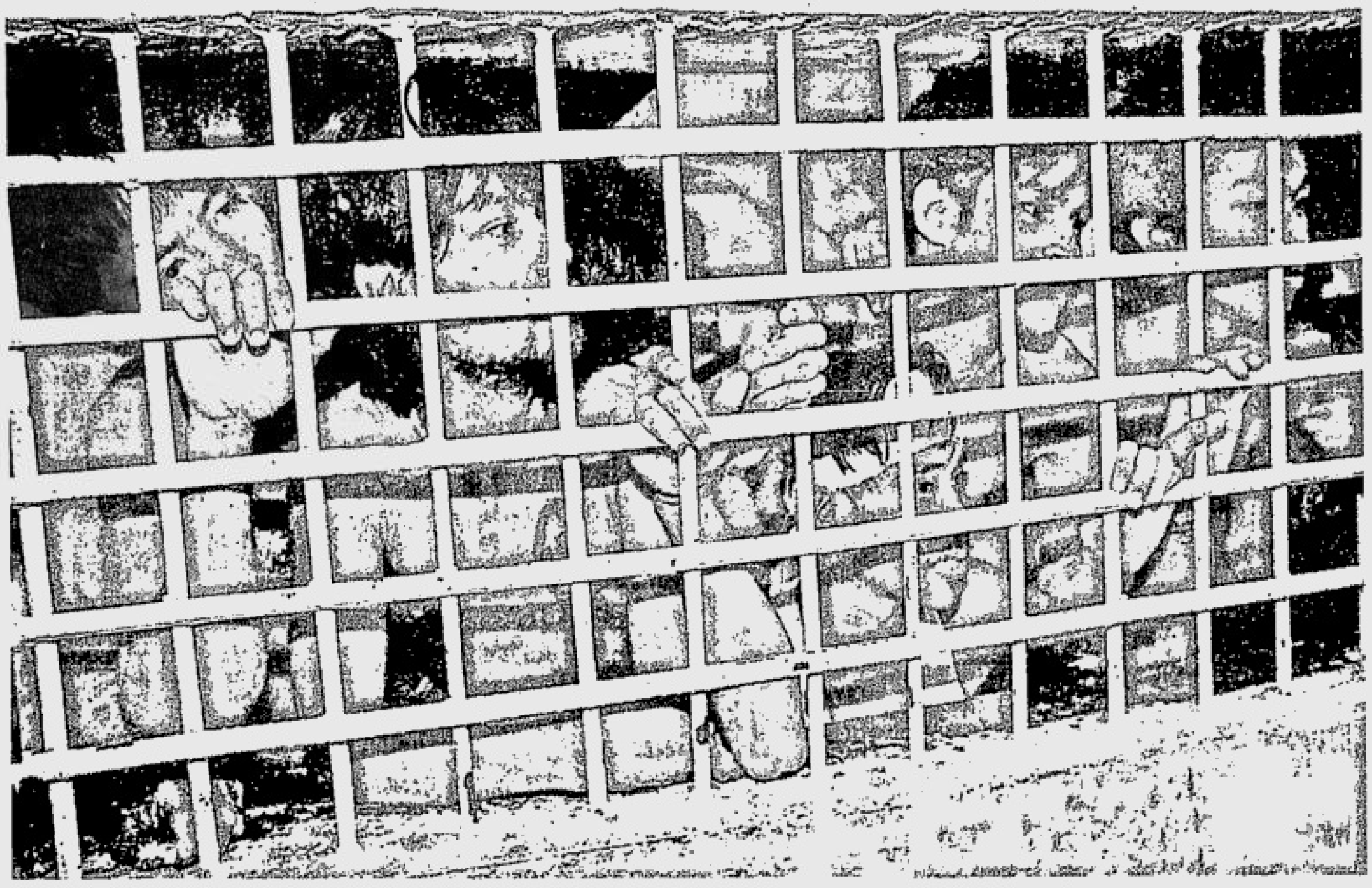
An informer reportedly told members of the drug enforcement unit of the Malabon City police that he had just closed a P25,000 marijuana deal with Luk, also known as Sam, on Dec. 19 at about 1 a.m. on Gov. Pascual Street in Barangay Catmon, Malabon.

The Malabon police under Supt. Ernesto Fojas Jr., former city police chief, ordered his men to conduct a buy-bust operation.

The four men were arrested when they handed to undercover policemen 10 plastic bags containing more than 90 kilos of marijuana.

In his defense, Luk Wai argued that he only arrived in the country on the day the buy-bust operation was conducted. But the court ruled that he need not be in the Philippines to engage in the illegal drug trade.

Records also revealed that though King and Regala did not actively participate in the drug transaction, the court still considered them active conspirators in the commission of the crime.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

HOT JOINT
Detainees packed like sardines in the Western Police District Station 7 jail in Tondo, Manila try to cope with the searing heat by wearing a minimum of clothing and getting a whiff of air through the bars. Overcrowding has always been a problem in the country's jails no matter what the season.

MLQU robbed of ₱200,000

NEARLY P200,000 was stolen from the Manuel L. Quezon University treasurer's office in Quiapo, Manila last Thursday, police said.

Treasurer Amado Alvendia, 52, of MLQU on R. Hidalgo Street told police that they discovered the loss of P196,000 in his office Thursday afternoon, said PO3 Alfredo Tolentino of the Western Police District theft and robbery section.

Tolentino said the robbery could have happened between 5:25 p.m. Wednesday and 2:30 p.m. Thursday

Police suspect "an insider" stole the money.

Alvendia was not in his office yesterday. Other school officials refused to talk about the case, saying it was only the treasurer who knew about the incident.

Philip C. Tubeza

Nurse's. . .

From page A23

Abella's eldest son Jansen yesterday submitted a reply to De Leon's counter-affidavit where she denied killing Abella.

In her counter-affidavit, De Leon argued that she should not have been charged with murder.

Also yesterday, Jansen's father Raul went to the prosecutor's office to request that the submission of the reply be reset to May 29.

But Jansen later that day submitted the reply, including two key documents that would supposedly prove that De Leon "was the one who shot and killed my mother."

The first document was a May 16 certification from the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division showing that the 9-mm pistol supposedly used in the killing was "owned by and licensed/registered in the name of Marybeth Lopez de Leon."

The second document, a firearms identification report, said the bullet that killed Abella came from De Leon's pistol with serial number EPA-740, Jansen said in his reply.

The son also argued that De Leon committed murder since "she immediately fled and brought with her the BMW car with the intention of ensuring the death of her victim."

Jansen said the car could have been used to bring his mother to the hospital.

Widow forgives cops who . . .

From page A23

injured Clarissa, exactly a year ago yesterday.

"The Philippine National Police Intelligence Group expresses its deepest and sincerest public apologies to the families of Mr. Fernando Lozada and Marianne Uson for their unfortunate death and for the consequent immeasurable suffering of their family and loved ones," said Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, PNP-IG director, in his letter.

"While the PNP-IG bears the full responsibility of the Lozada-Uson incident, it hopes that the incident shall not be repeated in the future where citizens' lives are needlessly lost."

Mrs. Lozada admitted that she would not have been as forgiving, had the PNP offered its apology three months after her husband's death. But now, she said she was accepting it.

"My family and I went through really tough times after my husband's death," said Mrs. Lozada, who is now alone in raising her three children.

Everything changed at home, affecting the whole family emotionally, spiritually and financially, she said.

"It took me nine months to accept what happened to him. I used to cry a lot. I could not even carry on with a conversation," she said.

Clarissa, who suffered several gunshot wounds in the assault, had to see a psychiatrist for six months because of the trauma, she said. The entire family also had to forget all the luxury that they had gotten used to, like the car and expensive food.

Having no one else to rely on, Mrs. Lozada said she realized she had to be strong for her children.

"I found that I first had to accept what happened before I could move on. Somehow, things got easier when I started to let go."

She now works as a telemarketer for a construction firm.

Clarissa, now an incoming junior college student at the College of Holy Spirit, had to work to support her studies.

Mrs. Lozada said she was thankful that she had her family and friends to run to when things got difficult.

She said that many other people have also extended assistance to her family. Among them were Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chair Dante Jimenez and Senators Tito Sotto and Jun Magsaysay.

In a phone interview, Chief Superintendent Delfin said that the apology was supposed to have been issued last month, but his group had to consult with lawyers on its possible implications to the case against the involved policemen.

Ten members of the PNP intelligence group have pending murder and attempted murder cases before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

These are Supt. Edgar Iglesia, Chief Insp. James Mejia, Senior Insp. Edwin Portento, Inspectors Preston Gagangan, Ceazar Percival Pangda and Christine Tabdi, and Police Officers 1 John Bolatin, Arnold Solas, Cheerylyn Tundayag and Frederick Taala.

Delfin said that the 10 police officers had been suspended for six months because of the ambush.

Fernando Lozada, who was driving a Mitsubishi Lancer, was about to make a U-turn at the intersection of Del Monte and G. Araneta avenues when three armed men in civilian clothes alighted from a white car and approached them.

He apparently got scared and sped off toward Quezon Avenue, with the armed men chasing them and firing at them. He supposedly continued to drive even after he and Uson were hit. He rammed the car into a concrete wall near the corner of Araneta Avenue and Maria Clara Street.

Lozada and Uson were brought to the National Orthopedic Hospital, where Lozada was pronounced dead upon arrival. Uson died the next day.

TUP engineering students in UP Circuit Squeeze 2002

THE TECHNOLOGICAL University of the Philippines, Manila College of Engineering recently participated in the UP Circuit Squeeze 2002.

Three TUP teams competed in the contest. Team C, with members Ronaldo Rueda, Mante Martinez, Jerry Infante and Joel Cuya, was champion.

Team A, with members Aurelio Bantigue, Jaime Nepomuceno, Reynaldo Salmorin and Ildefonso Gracia, won second place.

Out of 25 teams representing 13 universities, Team B, with members Bert Lee Gonzaga, Medel Ronario, Edmon Fernandez and Jeriel Figueroa, won fourth place.

Ateneo de Manila University placed third.

Mapua Institute of Technology won fifth place.

Mercado mate a suicide, say probers

From page A23

Ambrosio told Mercado that she and her friends were planning to spend a few days at his rest house in Morong, Bataan, police said.

But there was a prior reservation for the rest house so Mercado suggested another date, police said.

Police said Ambrosio was disappointed and the couple argued.

Mercado opted to leave the condominium at 10:30 p.m. and went to his office in West Rembo, Makati, police said. But sometime past midnight, City Administrator Nicanor Santiago and Bernabe arrived in Mercado's office and told him that Ambrosio had shot herself and had been rushed to the Makati Medical Center, police said.

Mercado returned to the condo unit at about 3 a.m. to ask Ambrosio's maids — Allen Gavilonggoso, Mylene Obiena and Aida Rocio — what had happened, police said. He entered her bedroom and saw a .38 revolver on top of the bed, police said. He told police he opted to keep the gun inside a cabinet since no one was in the condo unit except for the maids.

Police said Mercado learned Ambrosio had died the following morning and arranged for her burial. He also ordered Makati police chief Gutierrez to investigate Ambrosio's death, police said.

The final report of investigators said former Makati City councilor Ferdie Estrella on April 26 turned over to police the gun Ambrosio supposedly used to shoot herself, or two days after she was found bleeding from a gunshot wound. No explanation was given in the report on how Estrella managed to get hold of the gun.

Earlier, police said Ambrosio's maid Obiena turned over the gun to authorities.

Police said in the final report that they also interviewed Ambrosio's maids.

Obiena said that past 11 p.m. on the night of April 24, she led Bautista and Bernabe, who were regular visitors, into Ambrosio's room, the report said.

The three were surprised to find Ambrosio bloodied, the report said. It said Bautista and Bernabe had given similar testimonies.

The report said the videotape of the closed circuit television camera installed in the elevator and the ground floor lobby of Ambrosio's condominium building showed that Mercado had left at 10:40 p.m. of April 24, almost an hour before the videotape showed Ambrosio being brought down from her unit, the report said.

A ballistics test showed that a .38 slug was fired from the Smith and Wesson pistol registered under Ambrosio's name, the report said. But the report did not say where police found the slug.

Ambrosio, the report said, tested positive for traces of gunpowder.

"With all the (pieces) of evidence on hand and taking the testimonies of witnesses into account… and the results of both ballistics and paraffin examinations, it can be deduced that the deceased (Ambrosio) was alone in their bedroom when she shot herself with her own gun, thus she committed suicide," the report said.

Ibis also recommended in the report that the case should be closed "without prejudice of having it reopened."

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Barbers: Gotesco owners swindled Caloocan

By Rocky Nazareno

SEN. Robert Barbers has accused the Go family, which owns the Gotesco chain of malls, of swindling the Caloocan City government when they conspired to acquire a prime lot on Rizal Avenue extension in Balintawak without paying for it.

In a privilege speech, Barbers accused Gotesco president Jose C. Go, his sister Elena, brothers George and Vicente, corporate directors Go Tong, Go Chi Se, Ng Hong Tam and corporate officers Santos Us and Ng Cheng Chu, of conspiring to illegally acquire the 22,685-square meter lot.

"There was evident faith on the part of Gotesco when it employed, like a thief in the night, deceit in acquiring title to the property," Barbers said.

He added that Gotesco, "through outright bribery, succeeded in getting a prime real estate property ... without paying anything for it."

The lot, where the Cecilio Apostol Public Elementary School once stood, was originally leased to Gotesco in 1983. The Go family allegedly bought the lot seven years later at P6,000 per square meter from the incumbent city mayor.

But the sale was disapproved by then Commission on Audit chair Eufemio Domingo because there was no public bidding held and that the selling price was too low. The market value of the lot was then pegged at P16,592 per square meter.

Five years later, without the knowledge or consent of the Caloocan government, Gotesco urged COA to reconsider its previous disapproval of the sale.

In 1997, Gotesco was able to get a reversal of Domingo's decision. The audit commission only requested that the sale price be pegged at P8,069 per square meter.

But the Caloocan government refused to honor the transaction since the lot's disposition did not go through a public bidding.

Gotesco then filed a complaint for consignation of the selling price of P183.085 million corresponding to the COA-quoted P8,069 per square meter.

Gotesco then submitted to the Regional Trial Court two personal checks worth P183 million representing the full payment for the property, and P910,000 for transfer fees, and P9.67 million in cashier's check for real property taxes due.

With the simulated payments, Gotesco succeeded in securing the title to the property from the city government.

Barbers also accused Caloocan's register of deeds Yolanda Alfonso of abetting the Go family in the illegal deal.

"That Atty. Alfonso can effect the transfer of title despite the anomalous circumstances surrounding the transaction glaringly shows that she was a willing accomplice," Barbers said.

Naturalized American nabbed in Cavite for brod's slay

By Philip C. Tubeza and Edson Tandoc Jr.

AFTER six long years, justice finally caught up with a Filipino-American who allegedly killed his own brother in Alaska and stole nearly P15 million of the brother's insurance money.

Rolando Vizcarra Medina, 36, a naturalized American who once lived in Kodiak, Alaska, was arrested yesterday morning by National Bureau of Investigation agents in Malagasang in Imus, Cavite, said NBI Deputy Director Fermin Nasol.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI Interpol Division chief, said Medina had been a top fugitive in Alaska after he allegedly killed his brother Carlo in Kodiak sometime in 1996.

Diaz said Medina "beat his brother to death" but was able to elude US authorities and escaped to the Philippines in 1997. But this was after he took his brother's $285,000 in death insurance money.

Nasol said the NBI started looking for Medina after the US Embassy legal attaché in Manila requested the bureau's help in tracking him down.

Nasol said the bureau hunted the suspect for two years before NBI agents tracked him down in Cavite.

Diaz said Medina will be deported to Guam tomorrow and he will be turned over to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Abalos fumes over MMDA-DPWH gap on bridge repair

By Alcuin Papa

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday chided the Department of Public Works and Highways for initiating repairs on three vital bridges in Metro Manila just when classes start next month.

Abalos identified the two of the bridges as the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela and the Sevilla Bridge in Mandaluyong.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, an upset Abalos said the DPWH should have given him notice of the repairs.

"Look at that, I did not know of these repairs and I only heard about them now," he said. In a radio interview earlier in the day, he got obviously angry after he learned of the repairs for the first time on the air.

He said there was no coordination between the DPWH and the MMDA on a traffic scheme for the affected areas "so we can prepare for the school opening."

"When I asked for a suggested traffic scheme, I was told that they are still coming up with one," he said. "Definitely, this is going to affect the opening of classes."

The MMDA also asked the DPWH to immediately submit a traffic scheme so the agency can revise or implement it.

He said he is not saying that the repairs should not be done, but "when traffic gets bad, we might get the blame for it when it is the DPWH who is doing the repairing."

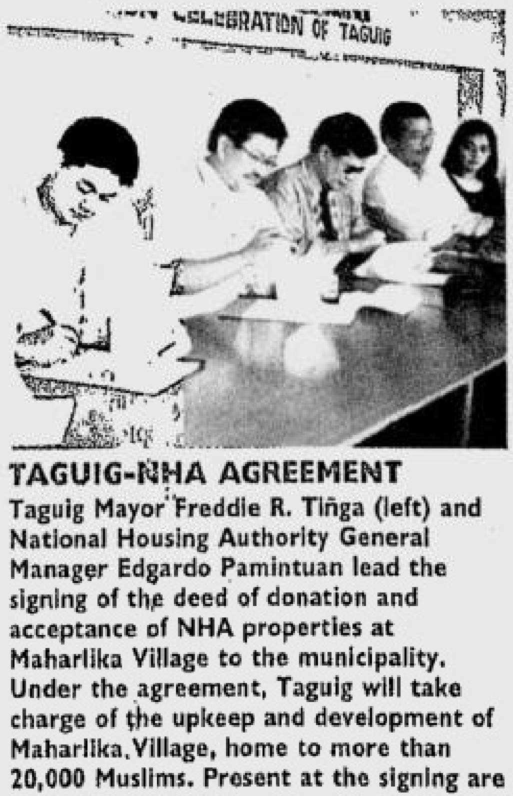
Until press time, Abalos said, the DPWH had not contacted his office to coordinate on the repairs.

The INQUIRER yesterday tried to get in touch with Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong but was told he was out of town.

The office of DPWH National Capital Region Director Antonio Sta. Elena was also busy as of press time.

The volume of vehicles around Metro Manila increases in June as students troop to schools for the start of the school year.

MUNTI GRADUATES
Ninety Muntinlupa City residents recently completed the "Isang Gunting, Isang Suklay" (IGIS) livelihood training program implemented by Rep. Ruffy Biazon (second from left). IGIS proprietor Ricky Reyes and Biazon congratulate one of the graduates. Capt. Pablo Salamat (behind Biazon) witnesses the graduation.



TAGUIG-NHA AGREEMENT
Taguig Mayor Freddie R. Tiñga (left) and National Housing Authority General Manager Edgardo Pamintuan lead the signing of the deed of donation and acceptance of NHA properties at Maharlika Village to the municipality. Under the agreement, Taguig will take charge of the upkeep and development of Maharlika Village, home to more than 20,000 Muslims. Present at the signing are former Taguig-Pateros Rep. Dante O. Tiñga, engineer Arthur Cabantac of NHA-NCR and Councilor Myla Rodriguez.

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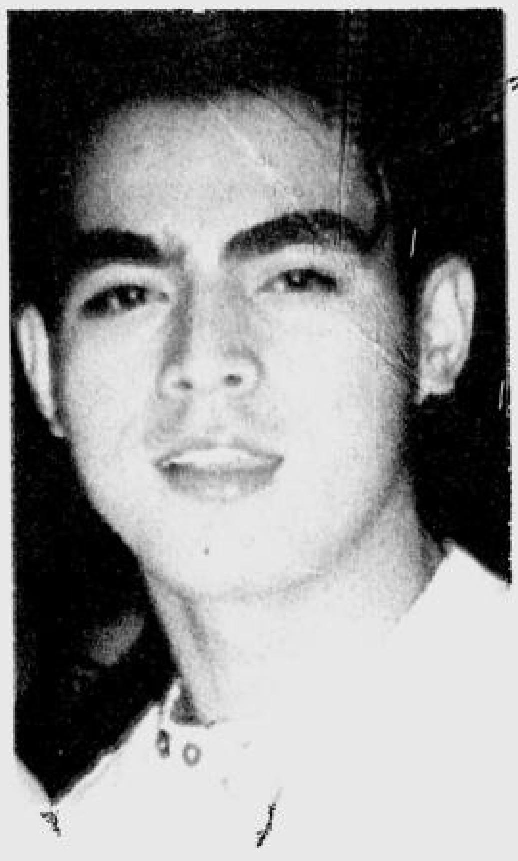


MORENO

I quit because I was fed up, says Moreno

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Councilor Isko Moreno yesterday denied he was politicking when he quit the majority group in the city council.

Moreno said he resigned because the majority councilors, who accused him of politicking, were the ones politicking.

"That's why I quit that lot, they (the majority councilors) always think about politics when they do something and I'm fed up with it," Moreno said in a phone interview.

"They think about politics because it's they, after all, who have political plans," he added.

The actor-turned-politician also denied that he is using his resignation to gain political spotlight in a rumored plan to run for a higher post in 2004.

A councilor from the majority group told reporters that Moreno is planning to run for vice mayor, as the running mate of Rep. Mark Jimenez.

But Moreno said he had no political plans at present. He said he would stay out of politics by opting to remain a "non-aligned" member of the city council.

"I was voted here to represent my constituents (in Tondo), so that's what I'm doing," he said. "If they persist in saying that I have political ambition, that's their problem."

The six opposition members of the council, mostly belonging to the Lakas-NUCD party, are said to be reluctant in accepting Moreno. A councilor from the minority group said that's because Moreno did not quit the Liberal Party, to which the 29 majority councilors and Mayor Lito Atienza belong.

During the council's session last Tuesday, Moreno made his former colleagues in the majority feel that he was no longer one of them.

He made at least a dozen "points of order" and parliamentary inquiries that delayed the reading, discussion and approval of several bills.

The councilors were even forced to return to their seats and extend their session only minutes after moving to adjourn it after Moreno asked why the majority always wanted to adjourn once their "pet" ordinances were passed.

"Whenever I question the proceedings, I only want council rules implemented properly and the councilors guided by them," Moreno later explained.

He said he wants to uphold the rights of all councilors as legislators and for them to "behave, follow the council's rules properly and be guided by them."

"It's unfortunate that sometimes, we follow one rule today, a different one tomorrow and another one next month," he said.

Moreno resigned from the council's majority group on May 9 after what he claimed was the unjust delay of a pending expropriation ordinance that would have benefited 70 squatter families in Tondo, which he represents.

Midyear bonus in Mandaluyong

HAPPY employees of the Mandaluyong City Hall on Tuesday crowded the cashier's office to receive their midyear bonus.

Last week, Mayor Benhur C. Abalos directed city treasurer Pia Espedido to release P23.6 million for half of the 13th month pay of the more than 3,000 city hall employees.

This amount formed part of the P47 million total appropriation for the employees' bonuses and cash gifts for the year. The other half will be given in October.

Mandaluyong has always been among the first LGUs to release its midyear bonuses to its workers, in time for the enrollment of their children.

Employees get bonuses ranging from P2,541 to P14,437.50, or equivalent to one half of their monthly salary, without deductions.

"We make sure to release what is due them as early as possible," Abalos said. "I don't want them to worry at this time of the year."

Makati to turn 332 years old

By Leah Salterio

THREE hundred and thirty-two years ago, Spanish governor general Miguel Lopez de Legazpi found himself in a riverside town in the country and asked the residents the name of the town. The natives, who could not understand Spanish, thought he was asking about the river and said "*kuma-káti na*," which meant the water was ebbing.

Legazpi thought he heard Makati. That, according to the lore, was how the city got its name.

Today, Makati is recognized as the country's most progressive city and its undisputed financial capital. Since the late '60s, it has become the location of choice for business and commercial establishments.

Makati celebrates its 332nd foundation day on June 1.

Unlike in the past when the observance of the occasion was merely a one-day event, this year's "Araw ng Makati" will be a 12-day festivity.

"This is the first time the city will have a grand celebration of this magnitude," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

"It's about time Makati residents get what they deserve," Binay said. "If we are to give value to the historical roots of the city, we should really celebrate."

Lito Anzures, consultant to the mayor, said the project cost for the celebration is P15 million, to be shouldered by the private sector and the city government. A bigger share of the budget will come from the private sector and only P5 million will come from the city government, according to Anzures.

Surprise

"We're happy that the private sector has decided to work closely with us on this big event," he said. "It was a pleasant surprise for us when they extended their full support to the celebration."

He pointed out that the celebration is not a money-making venture for the city government. "We just want to make Makati residents and the transients to be happy," he said.

As of last count, Anzures said, Makati has nearly 500,000 residents, while the transients, composed of people who work in the business district or who frequent Makati's commercial establishments, number up to 800,000.

The event is getting a big boost from the business sector, particularly the Ayala Group.

"That should strike out the presumption that the business sector does not work harmoniously with the city government," Anzures said. "When we started talking to them about the celebration, we got very good response."

Preparations for this year's "Araw ng Makati" started as early as January, when the city government asked the private sector to participate in the celebration.

Promo

The number "332" will be used in the 12-day promo that will involve Makati hotels and restaurants, which will offer an all-inclusive meal for only P332.

Joey Salgado, officer-in-charge of Makati's information and community relations department, said "332" will also figure prominently in huge banners that will hang outside the buildings in the Central Business District.

> *'If we are to give value to the historical roots of the city, we should really celebrate.'*

The activities start May 24, with the coronation of this year's Miss Makati beauty pageant at the Mandarin Oriental Manila Ballroom.

A grand parade will be held on May 31, when Ayala Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic from the RCBC Building on Gil Puyat (Buendia) to Makati Avenue starting at noon.

The parade, which will start at 2:30 p.m., is expected to have 6,000 marchers, including contingents from the barangays, members of the Makati Commercial Estates Association, and delegations from the city government, commercial establishments, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

Manila Polo Club riders and Mad Dog motorcycle riders will also participate.

Vintage cars as well as the latest models of vehicles from Toyota, Jaguar and Porsche will be driving up and down Ayala.

BINAY

Foodfest

Mascots and floats from GMA 7, Viva TV and San Miguel Corp. will also serve as parade attractions.

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) will hold a food festival along Paseo de Roxas, where food establishments will sell their specialties.

There will be a free concert at the Makati Park and Garden at 6 p.m., with Moonstar 88, Cheese and The Youth, and another show at Ayala Center at 7 p.m.

The May 31 festivities will be capped by a grand fireworks display at the Ayala Center at 10 p.m.

The celebration will also be highlighted by the street parties on Kalayaan Avenue leading to Rockwell on May 30 and on Jupiter Street on May 31.

On June 1, Makati residents will be treated to an open-air show featuring Asin, Color It Red, The Dawn and Barbie's Cradle at the Makati Park.

Anzures said there is also a plan for the noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," to go on a remote telecast from the Pamantasan ng Makati grounds.

Other events include an arts and craft exhibit and demonstration (May 29), ballroom dancing and singing competitions (May 30), puppet show and midnight madness sale (May 31); dragon boat race and *tiangge* (June 1), fun run (June 2), tournaments in boxing, chess, billiards and basketball and a mass wedding at the St. Peter and Paul Church (June 5).

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 18, 2002
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 28:16-20,3031**

Gospel: **Jn 21:20-25**

Peter looked back and saw that the disciple Jesus loved was following as well, the one who had reclined close to Jesus at the supper and had asked him, "Lord, who is to betray you?" On seeing him Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain until I come, does that concern you? Follow me."

Because of this the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus had not said to Peter, "He will not die," but "suppose I want him to remain until I come."

It is this disciple who testifies about the things he has recorded here and we know that his testimony is true. But Jesus did many other things; if all were written down, the world itself would not hold the books recording them.

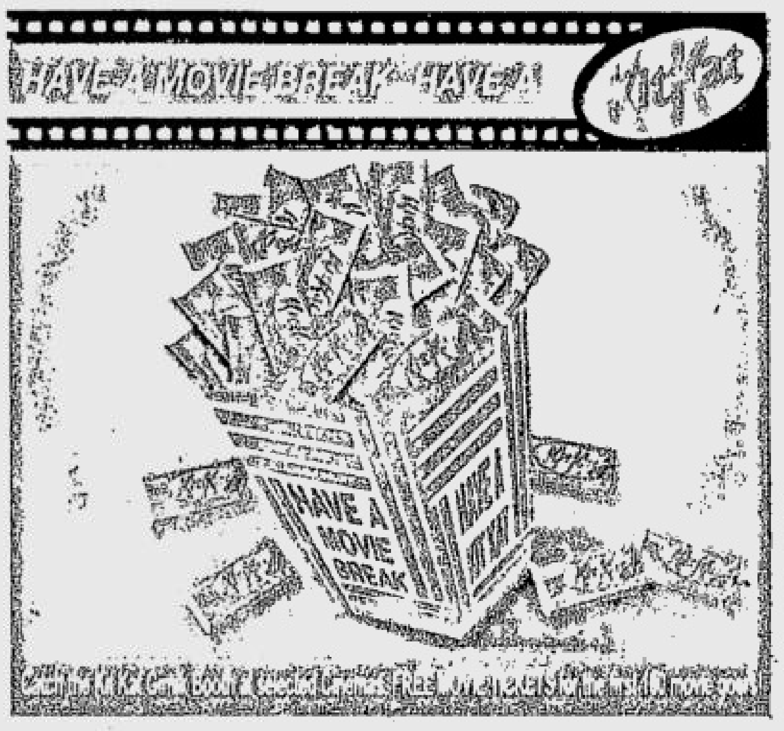
Commentary

John says there is so much more that Jesus did. What a shame he didn't write more! And yet, how lucky we are to have so much. We know all that is essential. As St. Ignatius of Loyola said, "It is not much knowledge that fills and satisfies the soul, but the intimate relish and understanding of the truth." This comes through attentiveness to God in our daily experiences and relationships, in nature, in the historical events we are living through, in prayer and pondering the gospel in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. For Christians, the gospels are the most important book in the world. But the gospels are no different from any other book on the shelf gathering dust, unless they become for us a stepping stone to a personal relationship with Jesus. This is where the Holy Spirit enters in!

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Solidary and joint obligation—A solidary obligation is one in which each of the debtors is liable for the entire obligation, and each of the creditors is entitled to demand the satisfaction of the whole obligation from any or all of the debtors. On the other hand, a joint obligation is one in which each debtor is liable only for a proportionate part of the debt, and the creditor is entitled to demand only a proportionate part of the credit from each debtor. The well-entrenched rule is that solidary obligations cannot be inferred lightly. They must be positively and clearly expressed. A liability is solidary "only when the obligation expressly so states, when the law so provides or when the nature of the obligation so requires." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, PH Credit Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 109648, November 22, 2001] **Digest by R. B. Vera**



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Money changer slain in front of City Hall

By Philip C. Tubeza and Edson Tandoc Jr.

A COURIER of a moneychanging shop was killed in a daring robbery right in front of the Manila City Hall late yesterday afternoon.

The victim's lone police escort was also injured, while a traffic policeman is in danger of losing his feet after he was wounded when the robbers threw a grenade to escape responding lawmen.

Edwin Patricio, 26, a courier for the Edcel Moneychanger shop in Ermita, Manila, was instantly killed in the robbery, said Senior Supt Ernesto Ibay, chief of the Manila City Hall special operations group.

The victim's escort, PO3 Priscillo Tungol, of the Western Police District station 1, was shot in the stomach.

SPO1 Damaso Rivera, of the WPD Traffic Enforcement Group, was critically injured when the suspects threw a grenade at him.

Police said Patricio, who was driving a red Kawasaki motorcycle, and Tungol, who was on a Yamaha bike, came from Binondo and were on the southbound lane of P. Burgos Street in front of city hall when the suspects struck at 5:45 p.m.

The four suspects, on board a green Honda Civic and a motorcycle, opened fire on Patricio, who fell off his motorcycle.

One of the suspects then took Patricio's backpack, which contained an undetermined amount of money, and finished him off with another shot.

Tungol tried to shoot it out with the suspects, but when the culprits opened fire, the police escort was instantly hit in the stomach.

Rivera, who heard the shooting, responded and tried to chase the suspects on board his motorcycle.

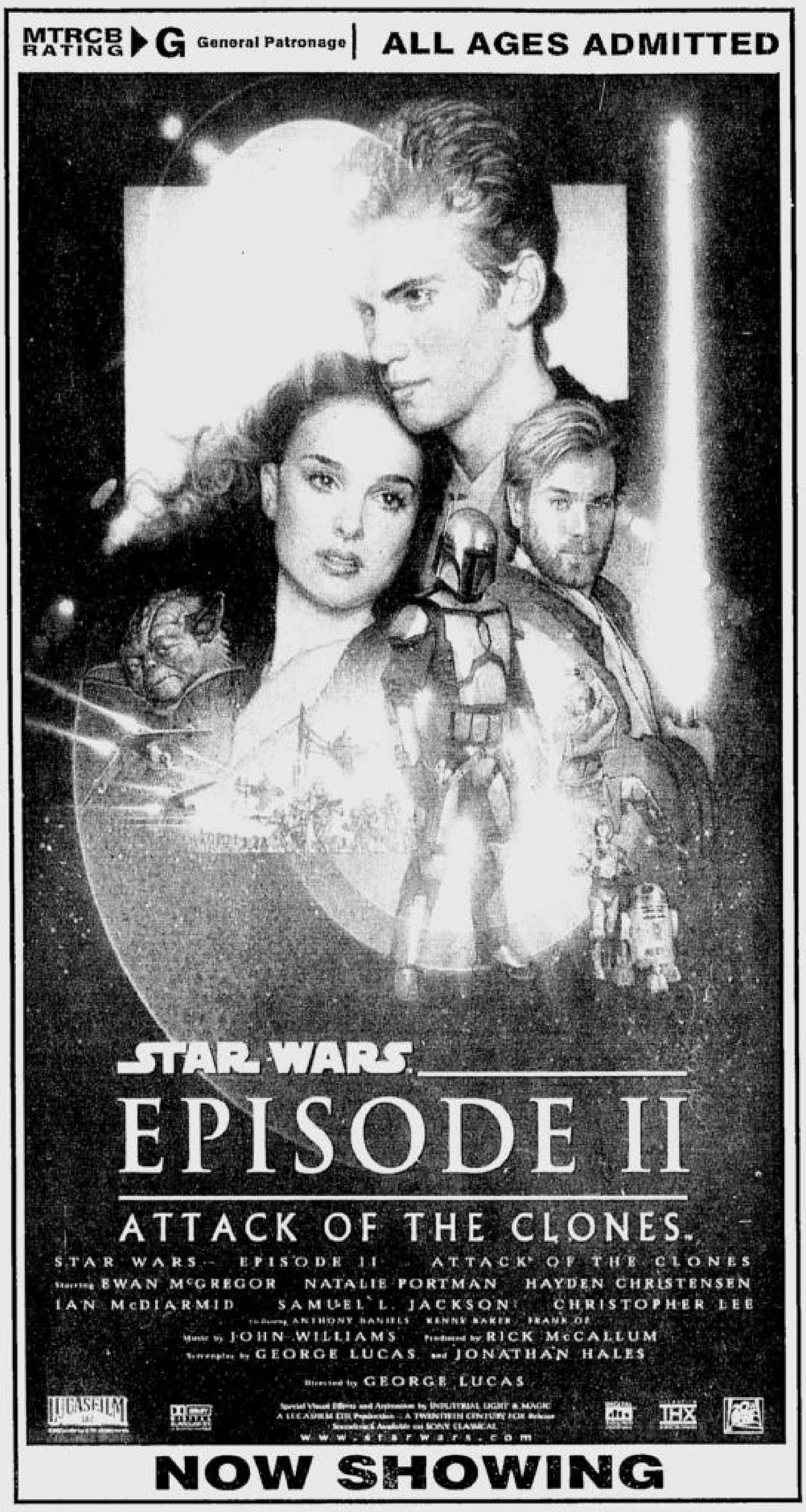
But the culprits threw a grenade in his direction.

"We tried to go after them, but they kept on firing (at us)," said SPO1 Leo Limbaga of the SOG.

The suspects were last seen heading toward Rizal Park. The two wounded policemen were taken to the Philippine General Hospital, police said.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SANA TOTOO NA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	JASON-X
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	EVA / JOYRIDE
ODEON	STAR WARS
ODEON-2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ROBEN	SANA TOTOO NA
TANDEM-1	. ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	FROM HELL / D 'TOX
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	STAR WARS
REMAR-2	SANA TOTOO NA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SANA TOTOO NA
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT . .
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANA TOTOO NA
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	K-PAX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	JASON-X
CINEMA-7	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-14	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-15	SPIDERMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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ATTACK OF THE CLONES
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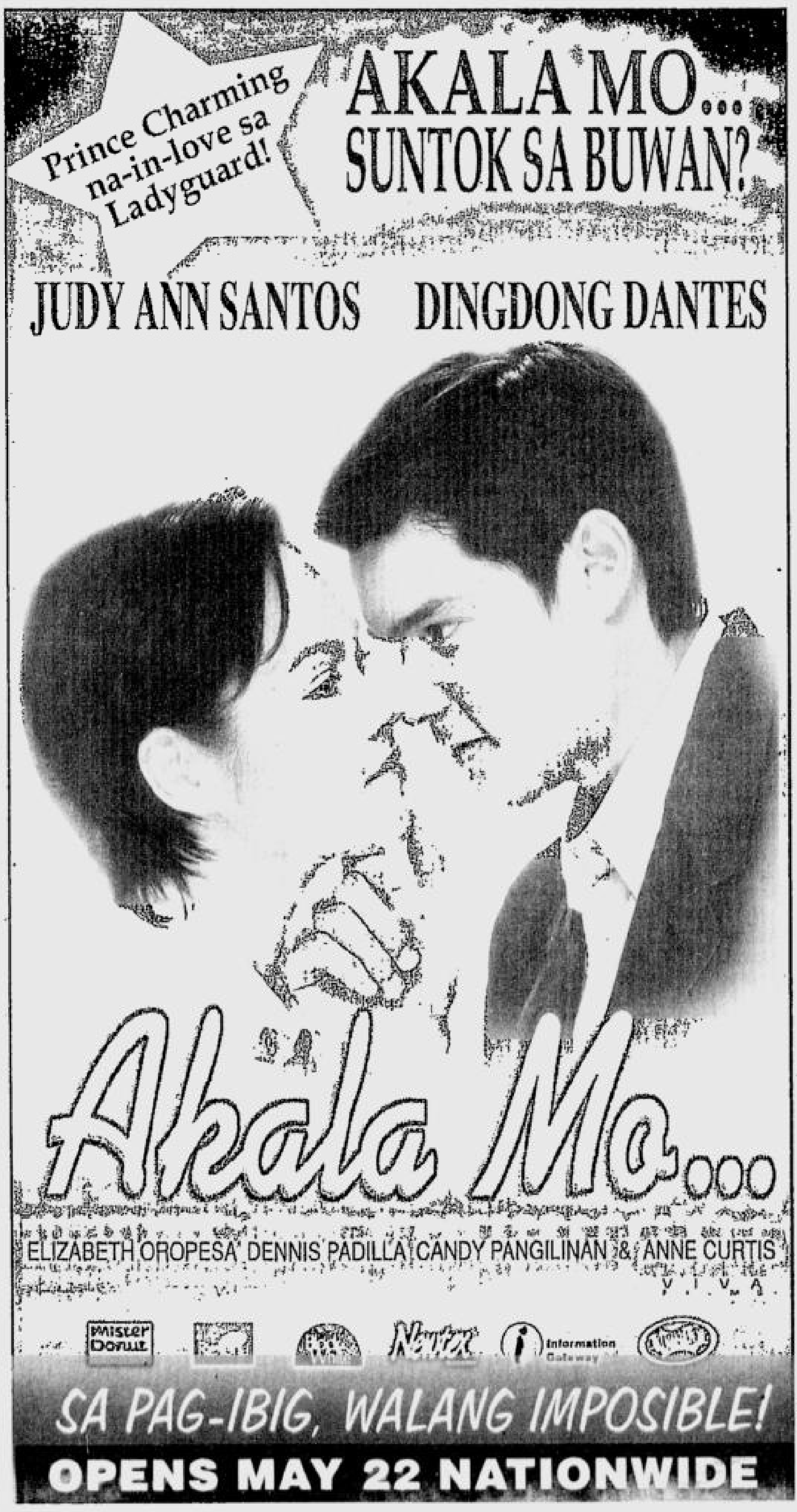
TONTON GUTIERREZ and GLYDEL MERCADO
Sana Totoo Na
BERTING LABRA JACKIE CASTILLEJO JOSEPH BALTAZAR
Guest Appearances PRECIOUS VALENCIA NICOLE NOBLE IVANA CAPES
Directed by ARMAN REYES, kdpp


Prince Charming na-in-love sa Ladyguard!
AKALA MO... SUNTOK SA BUWAN?
JUDY ANN SANTOS DINGDONG DANTES
Akala Mo...
ELIZABETH OROPESA DENNIS PADILLA CANDY PANGILINAN & ANNE CURTIS
VIVA
Mister Donut Information Gateway
SA PAG-IBIG, WALANG IMPOSIBLE!
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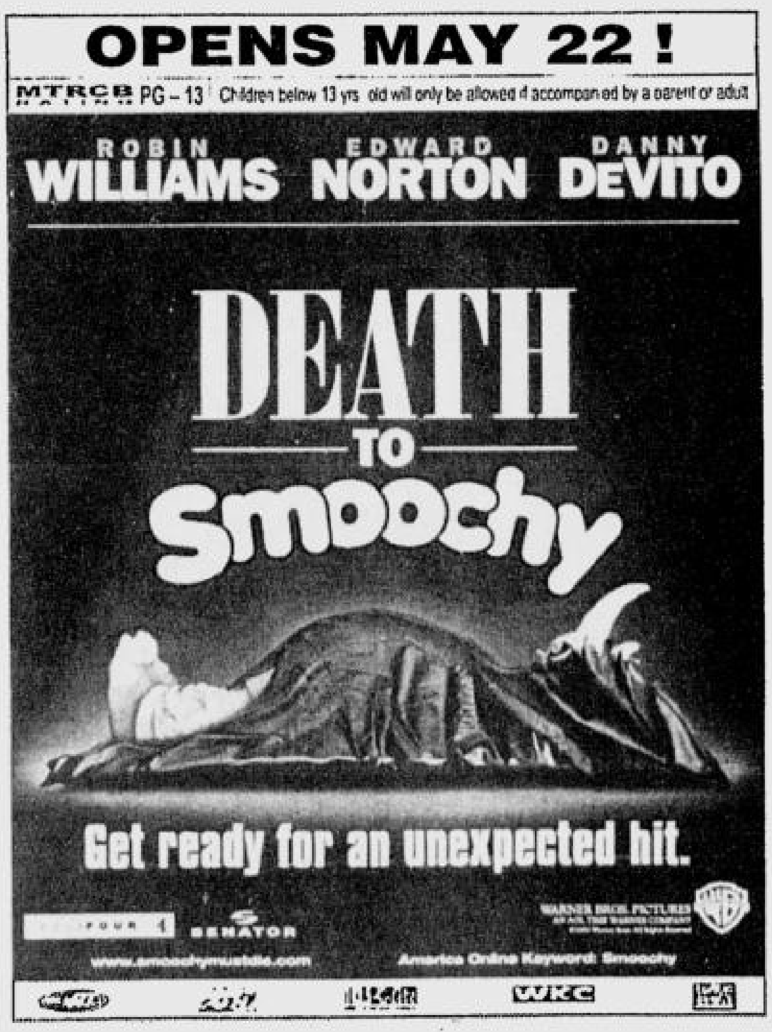
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Malonzo vows full compliance with solid waste law

By Joey C. Papa and Ana Ver-Papa
Contributors

MAYOR Rey Malonzo of Caloocan City, who had earlier declared he was not for incineration, has initiated composting and recycling activities in the city with the establishment of an eco-center or Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Barangay Bagumbong.

Helping the city government was Louie Vargas, who is behind the pioneer composting plant in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

The eco-center or MRF is the heart and soul of community-based ecological resource management, as provided for in the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or Republic Act No. 9003, the first law signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The law mandates every barangay, or cluster of barangays, to set up a center where segregated bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes can be processed.

Biodegradable resource is composted into soil conditioner or fertilizer; non-biodegradable waste is bought by factories or recycled for livelihood purposes. No waste, therefore, should ever go out of the barangay, except for a tiny percentage of residuals and toxic and hazardous waste that can be properly processed in a designated central facility.

Caloocan City has put up another MRF near the new City Hall in Caloocan North. By the second half of the year, more MRFS will be set up for clusters of smaller barangays, according to Malonzo. And by the end of the year, according to Vargas, the city should be able to collect in its various MRFs the equivalent of some 50 truckloads of biodegradable waste resource.

Soroptimists

Malonzo pointed out that among the most active in pushing zero waste practice in the city were civic women leaders.

He was referring to the Soroptimists International (SI) of Caloocan City, who first learned about ecological resource management from *Manang* Luz Sabas of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines in 1988.

In May 2001, the SICC won first place in the environment category in the SI Philippines regional biennial conference with their project Score (Segregation, Composting, Recycling). The environment committee of Soroptimists International of Caloocan City (SICC) spearheaded the project. It had the full support of SICC president Benedicta Martinez and the key participants —Block 7, Barangay 14, led by Barangay Captain Trinidad Repuno, Elvira Claros, and 40 other women coordinating 400 households.

In July 2001, this same project placed second among 400 entries in SI Americas' "2001 Soroptimists Celebrating Success." And in October 2001, Score won as Best Practice in the Environment during the worldwide Soroptimists awarding of accomplishments of members in education, environment, health, human rights, economic and social development, and international goodwill and understanding.

Simpler

When SICC formally organized Block 7 in August 1988, the first step was to look for women leaders who would coordinate the 400 homes in the block. By this time, too, *Manang* Luz had come up with the "*babad* pail" concept. Block 7 immediately carried out the concept as part of the non-biodegradable and biodegradable sorting and segregation in their households.

The Zero Waste Recycling Movement had long been teaching trainees to separate, clean, and dry their plastic wastes before storing these for recycling. Many of the new trainees, however, would find this difficult to implement at first, so *Manang* Luz thought of new ways to make segregation, sorting, storage, etc. simpler.

When the Payatas disaster struck in July 2000, *Manang* Luz learned from news reports that many of the deaths had also been caused by suffocation from the plastics dumped in that place.

Pail system

In search of a proper way to dispose of the endless supply of plastics, she thought it would help to have a large enough pail that would catch water with soapsuds from dishwashing or laundry and that would be placed under the kitchen sink or elsewhere convenient. The plastics or cans used to contain food and other biodegradable matter are soaked in this solution and later dried before these are stored, given to garbage collectors or sold to recycling plants.

Those who complain about the extra work of sorting, segregating, etc. can easily leave non-bio wastes in the pail for a week until they have the time to dry and store them.

A month after Manang Luz thought of the pail concept, the eco-waste champions of Block 7, Barangay 14 of Caloocan City became fully sold to the idea. Shortly after, the Caloocan City Hall Urban Health and Nutrition Project received some funding for the project from the World Bank.

Shopping

The Score project members received P100,000 and immediately went shopping for pails, pails, and more pails as well as shovels, rakes, brooms, dust pans, sacks and other paraphernalia which they distributed to the households. They conducted contests, such as the one for Best Score leader.

Block 7 is now harvesting herbal plants from their gardens-in-cans and earning from recyclable wastes. They have allocated from their funding from the barangay the amount for the purchase of a shredder for compos-ting. They are also reaching out to the other blocks in the barangay for these to follow their example.

These barangays have no choice. Malonzo has also vowed to campaign against those who will seek office or reelection as barangay officials all over the country if they do not support the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

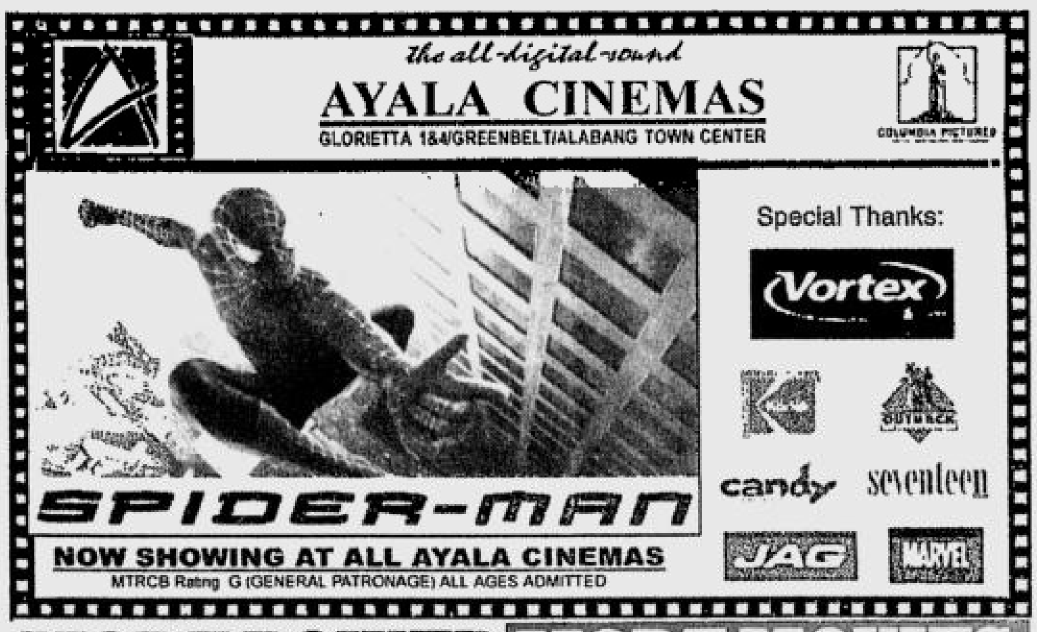
Peñafrancia Manila marks 51st anniversary

OUR Lady of Peñafrancia de Manila Parish in Paco will celebrate its 51st aniversary on Sunday, May 19, 2002.

The parish priest, Rev. Fr. Nolan A. Que, and the parishioners are inviting everyone, especially Marian devotees and Bicolanos residing in Metro Manila, to join them in the celebration.

The church of Our Lady of Peñafrancia de Manila is not as grandiose as the basilicas and cathedrals but it is easy to find. It is located at 1343 P. Gomez St., Paco, Manila. It is at the boundary of Paco and Pandacan, between the Catholic Church (San Fernando de Dilao) of Paco and the Sto. Nino Church of Pandacan.

Starting at 8 a.m. on the feast day, the street dancing called "Tatarin" will be held, where the parishioners, attired in their most colorful Filipiniana costumes, dance in the streets in the procession of their dear "Mother of the Poor."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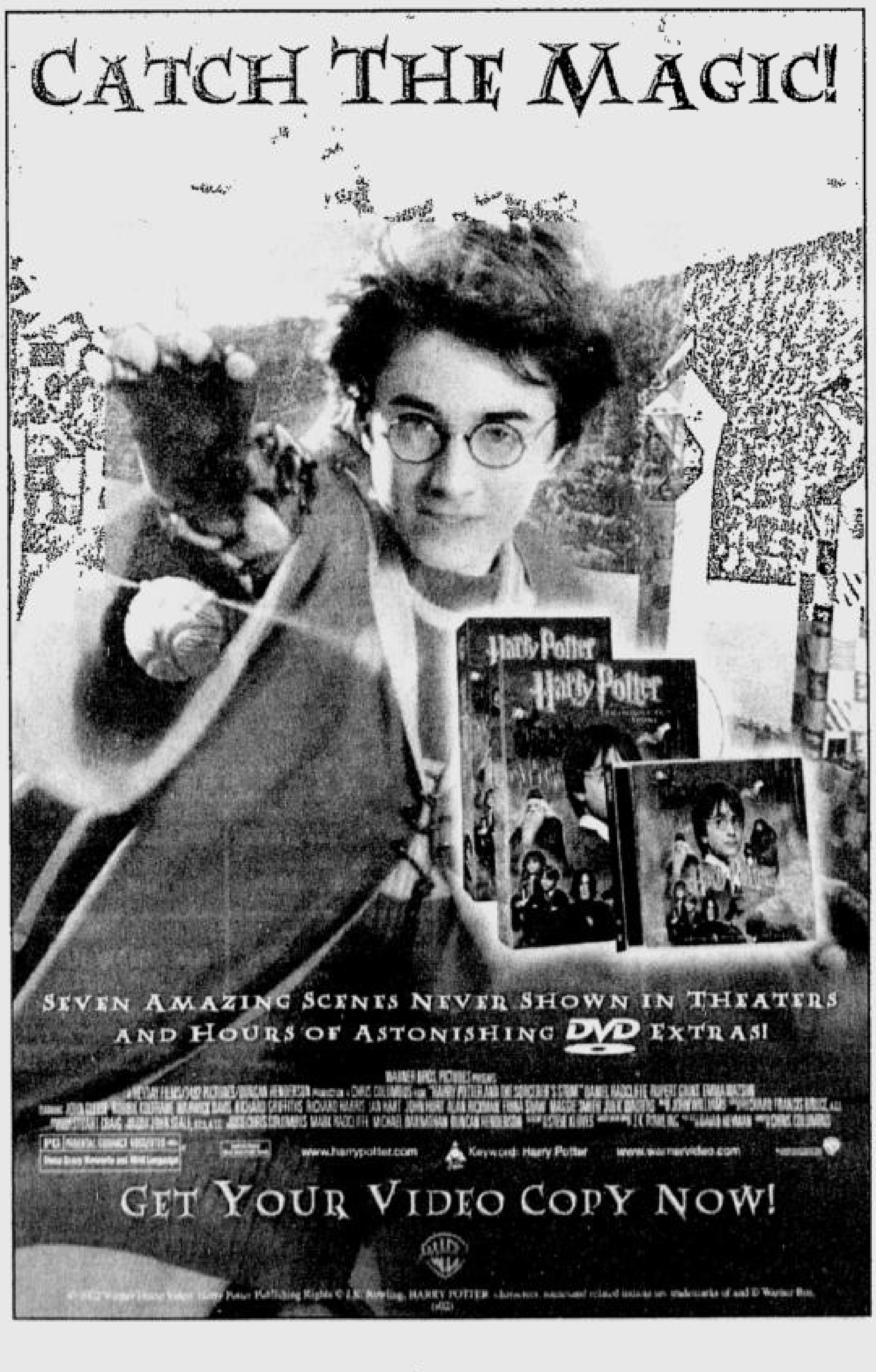
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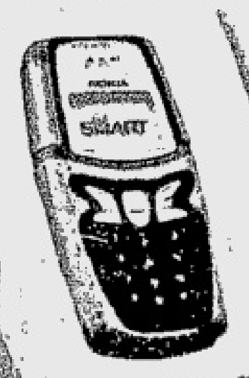

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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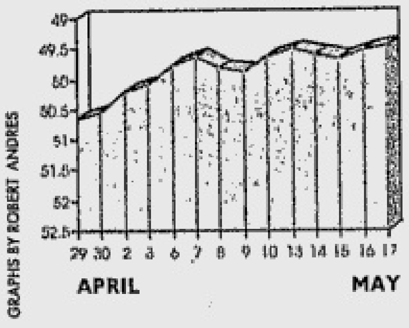

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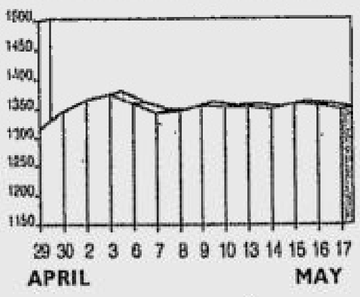

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed slightly down yesterday on lingering concerns over the government's fiscal position, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index declined 6.11 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1349.63 after losing 1.92 points Thursday to 1355.74.

The broader All Shares Index rose 1.12 points to 752.49 following a 6.55-point loss Thursday to 751.37.

Joanne Miguel, analyst at 2TradeAsia.com, said investors continued to shave holdings on concerns over the government's ability to meet its budget deficit target after overshooting its goal in the first quarter.

The government's budget deficit hit P61.2 billion in the first quarter, off its target of P52.9 billion due to poor tax collection, a weak economy and

SHARES/ B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines were chosen by the Bureau of Treasury to underwrite P9 billion worth of retail treasury bonds next month.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government would issue retail bonds maturing in three, four and five years with a minimum volume of about P3 billion each.

Edeza said the issuance of the retail bonds or RTBs would augment the government's financing requirement for the third quarter. This would be the third time for the Treasury to tap the small-savers market for funds.

Proceeds of the RTBs would be used to finance the estimated P130-billion fiscal gap this year.

Last year, the government issued P15.6 billion worth of four-year RTBs in May and another P22.4 billion of three-and-a-half-year bonds in November.

The Treasury has a mandate to issue as much as P150 billion worth of retail bonds during this administration.

The coupon rate for the bonds would be determined through the book-building process or during the time when the underwriters take orders from other banks. Of the total volume, 70 percent must be sold to retail investors.

Unlike the previous retail bonds that offered a higher yield, returns on the upcoming retail bond issue would be lower since interest rates have fallen to historic lows.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate stood at an average of 4.381 percent last Monday from a record low of 4.299 percent two weeks ago.

A retail investor can buy a minimum of P5,000 worth of bonds but not more than P2 million. The risk-free investment paper will be issued in denominations of P5,000.

The returns will be paid every quarter and like any other government debt paper, the RTBs will be subject to a final withholding tax and documentary stamp tax.

While meant to raise funds to help finance the government's budget deficit, the RTBs should also help improve the country's poor savings rate, according to Edeza.

The national savings rate as a percentage of gross national product had declined to 26 percent from more than 28 percent in previous years.

The Macapagal administration wants to improve the savings rate to 27 percent. But with very low interest rates on deposits, people are not being encouraged to save.

Gov't vows action on key investor concerns

THE RESPONSIVENESS of the government toward issues and concerns raised by foreign investors remains a critical priority of the Department of Trade and Industry as it continues to be the investor's advocate in government, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II assured Japanese investors yesterday.

"We look at ourselves as the investor's advocate in government," he stressed.

Meeting with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, Roxas assured executives of Japanese firms doing business here that the DTI would continue to address investor concerns by pushing for policy reforms that raise business competitiveness.

"Our mission is to create a climate that enables locators here to compete in the global arena," Roxas said.

The DTI has addressed or is addressing several issues brought up in the past, including those involving infrastructure and labor, he stated.

"Being your advocate and lawyer in bringing attention and resolution to these issues even if they reside in other bureaus and government agencies, we are actively pursuing these issues with the relevant government agencies including local government units," he said.

Roxas told businessmen that the President had earlier directed the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to cooperate with the DTI in refining its work in order to address the infrastructure needs of investors.

"The President has issued a directive that the work program of the DPWH can be amended or refined by the DTI to respond to the needs of the investor community," he said.

Roxas also assured the investors that labor issues raised by investors were being addressed by increasing the capabilities of the quick response team (QRT). The QRT, composed of members from the DTI and the Department of Labor and Employment, was created to head off and quickly resolve labor problems encountered by investors.

"There is a sense that labor problems are not being acted upon swiftly. We will strengthen our quick reaction team by putting more people and more teeth into the effort," Roxas said.

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Will you bury me?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PERHAPS our lawmakers believe, maybe even deep in their hearts, we truly look up to them to fix this problem called PPA. Heaven help us!

The PPA, as you probably know by now, if you can still think clearly amid all this noise from overnight experts, is the sporty name for the "purchased power agreement."

In English, PPA simply means we pay for all—meaning, ALL—the electricity (i.e. power) which Napocor bought (i.e. purchased) under various contracts (i.e. agreement).

That means we pay for those contracts whether we use the electricity or not. It's pretty much like marriage. You know—for richer or for poorer . . . until you bury me!

Probably thinking we will die if they don't act right away, some lawmakers want to save us from the PPA, by getting the government to pay for it instead. Wow!

It's the brightest idea I have ever had the pleasure of knowing since that proposal, aired some decades ago, to have the entire Philippine archipelago air-conditioned.

* * *

ALL of us, I know, hate this PPA. It doubles our electric bills. It actually makes even just a little room air-conditioning quite expensive. Alright—it has become unaffordable.

To address the problem, the OIC of our beloved government company Napocor, a certain Rolando Quilala, gave us this valuable advice: Don't use electricity!

For how dare we complain about our power rates, when in reality, they are only the second highest in the whole of Asia!

Thus was born the legendary wisdom of Quilala. Instead of complaining, we must do something about the problem in our own little way. And that is, turn off everything.

I thought the PPA forces us to pay for electricity whether we use it or not! And this Quilala tells us to avoid using electricity which we must still pay for anyway. Nice!

The suggestion aired by TV Patrol, the primetime news of ABS-CBN, is less drastic. Its anchor Korina Sanchez tried to give us ways to save on power consumption.

To me it's just more of the same thing. Thanks to the PPA, we must also pay for even the power which we try to save. So why should we even bother?

On the contrary, I think we should use up all that electricity. We already paid for it. So why must we cut down on usage? Let's air-condition the whole country.

* * *

THE ECONOMICS people in this cute administration of Gloriaetta wince at the thought of the government's absorbing the PPA.

Technically, according to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, it cannot be done. Well, the national budget for this year does not have a single centavo for the PPA.

Okay, let's even say this cute administration hired a fortune-teller when it did the 2002 budget. It foresaw a need to set aside money for the PPA. Hoorah! Problem solved!

Wait a minute, because according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, even if the government has the money, it's still not the right thing to do.

In effect, the Whiz said it's just more of the same thing. If the government pays for it, where will it get the money? Guess what—also the consumers.

As it is, payment for the PPA is pro rata, meaning, from each according to his consumption. The more electricity you consume, the higher PPA you pay.

Under the bright idea of having the government just pay for it, who knows what portion of the money for PPA should have gone to health care for the poor instead?

* * *

FOR that's the problem with quick solutions. Instead of saving us, they can bury us alive. Me, I would readily go with the idea of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Serge said we should probably use the IPPs, the independent power producers, which are the cause of this PPA, in the first place.

As I said, we pay for the power which they generate, anyway, whether we use it or not! Serge thinks that we should use it.

Then Napocor can probably shut down its own power plants, conserving them in the process, which the government can then sell at better prices later.

The only problem with Serge's idea is, how can the guys at Napocor earn their little tiny commission from all the things Napocor buys to run all its power plants?

Even before Serge could speak, Napocor should only shoot down his idea. It's not good for business—the monkey business in Napocor. *Tuloy ang ligaya.*

* * *

THEY say it's a guy thing—this car thing. Most of us guys believe our testosterone level depends on our knowledge of cars. So here's a program to help us maintain our manhood.

On RPN-Channel 9, every Saturday at 4 p.m., an hour-long magazine show will air, promising to be an entertaining ride for its viewers. It's about cars and motoring.

Titled Auto Extreme, the show is a joint production of Sicomms and Crystal Ship Productions. Log on to www.autoextreme.tv.

The producers tell me the show is designed to appeal to the young and, also, well, even the young at heart, thank you. It will go through the ins and outs of the auto world.

While motor sports is one part of the show, it also covers simple but basic car maintenance, which may be the portion that the wives will force us to take seriously.

It will take you on trips around the metropolis, showing new shops and their specialties, probably hoping you can save on gas by doing the canvassing for you.

Anyway, the show also features car collections and what the celebrities are driving. Fully clothed, I was told! Fully clothed! We can't have everything, alright?

AEV earmarks ₱1B for expansion of power plants

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures officials (from left) Erramon Aboitiz, Jon Ramon Aboitiz and Juan Antonio Bernard answer queries from stockholders during their annual meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

JOHNNY VILLENA

CEBU-BASED Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. is willing to spend up to P1 billion this year to expand its core power generation business.

AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz told reporters at the sidelines of the company's stockholders meeting Thursday that the amount was earmarked for new acquisitions.

Included in the capital outlays budgeted for this year, according to AEV president and CEO Jon Ramon Aboitiz, is a P500-million funding to boost the output of the company's Bakun AC Hydro plant in Ilocos.

The 70-megawatt hydro plant became operational in February last year boosting the profits of AEV subsidiary Luzon Hydro Corp. by 652 percent to P425 million.

"We are in the final preparation stages for the Bakun hydro supplemental water project, which should be operational in 2004. This will give Luzon Hydro additional 100 million kilowatt hours of energy per year," the AEV president said.

"Under our renewable energy program, we will continue to explore other hydro potentials in the country and expand our solar energy program to serve remote areas in our franchises," he explained.

The AEV president noted that it was more practical to invest in hydro plants, which last longer than other power generation facilities.

AEV's power group accounted for 59 percent of the company's total earnings in the first quarter.

"We have kept within our policy of maintaining a strong balance sheet, while at the same time ensuring that any fund raising will be 'non-dilutive' to our shareholders," Erramon Aboitiz said.

As the privatization of the National Power Corp. is being implemented, AEV is looking for opportunities in generating units. Likewise, it is keen on acquiring sub-transmission assets that could serve its franchise areas.

AEV's cash position stood at P1.5 billion as of end-2001, 42 percent better than the previous year's level.

The company earlier bought back 4.25 percent of its own shares from the stock market for a total of P551.84 million to boost its undervalued share prices and improve its earnings per share.

The Aboitiz family's profitable holding firm also declared a P505-million cash dividend, equivalent to a total of 10-centavo per share windfall to all stockholders of record as of May 27 this year.

BSP backs corporate governance code

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas would adopt the Code of Corporate Governance approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This was the assurance given by the BSP in a letter to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista early this month.

Bautista last month asked the BSP and the Board of Investments to require companies under their jurisdiction to comply with the Code, designed to prevent corporate failures arising from conflict of interest or from simple neglect by the board directors to properly oversee management.

In his letter to Bautista, Buenaventura said: "To standardize our approach to corporate governance, I have asked our people to adopt your Code as our initial base but adding additional requirements as needed by the BSP."

Bautista said she wanted the BSP, the BOI and government financial institutions to adopt the Code in line with a thrust to achieve "cooperative regulation" wherein different regulatory agencies have harmonized rules and regulations.

The SEC chair had proposed that the government begin considering the merits of having a single regulator for financial institutions and securities given that many countries around the region have started moving in that direction.

The Code of Corporate Governance specifically requires public companies or units of foreign public companies and those with a secondary license from the SEC such as preneed companies, investment houses and the like to come up with a manual of operations based on the Code within a year. Companies should also rotate their external auditors regularly. The covered companies will face penalties for non-compliance.

The Macapagal administration has been strongly promoting governance reforms in the Philippine corporate sector in light of the failure of some financial institutions and companies allegedly because of bad management and the ignorance of board directors. The government last October adopted the Guidelines for Good Corporate Governance Practices endorsed by the Apec.

Under the Code of Corporate Governance, a company's board of directors is given special responsibility for adhering to the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in directing the affairs of the corporation.

Directors who do not attend regularly, do not disclose the extent of their business interest and do not meet other requirements may be disqualified or suspended from the board.

The Code provides for the formation of four board committees: audit and compliance, nomination, compensation, and risk management and calls on management to put in place a performance evaluation system that would be applied to the board and top management itself.

The circular also stated that board members should be provided with complete, adequate and timely information prior to board meetings and on an ongoing basis.

The Capital Market Development Council, a public-private sector policy group that includes the SEC and the BSP, approved last January a Corporate Governance Reform Program for 2002 to 2004. This program enumerates proposals for corporate governance reforms, namely better protection of minority shareholders' rights, adherence to international auditing standards, and increased transparency and disclosure of public companies.

Shares down 0.5%

From page B1

low interest rates.

Analysts also noted that foreign funds were leading the steady selldown of Philippine stocks, apparently due to their high valuations compared with others in the region.

Leading losers were SM Prime Holdings and Globe Telecom, which succumbed to profit-taking after recent gains on strong first-quarter results.

Gainers included Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rebounded after investors sold on news of its robust first quarter. *AP*

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Atok Big Wedge Co. Inc.** gave authority to any two of Raul Alvarez, Armando Domingo and Rogelio Flores to complete all documentation related to the transfer of the company's titles to **Atok Gold Mining Co. Inc.**

* * *

ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 3 p.m. at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel. Record date is on May 27.

* * *

THE LISTING of 320,410 common shares of **First Philippine Holdings Corp.** under its executive stock option and employee stock purchase plan is set for Monday, May 20.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 212,000 of its own shares at prices ranging from P33.50 to P34 per share.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought more than 4.8 million of its own shares at prices ranging from P9 to P9.50 per share.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippine Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 20, 2 p.m. at the Makati AB Room of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders as of May 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 17, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	56	56	688,000
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	1,820
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	66,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	158,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	40.5	40	40	101,000
Philippine National Bank	42	42	41	41	12,600
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	16	16	16	16	52,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	24,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	236,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	90,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1420	1410	1420	100
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1085	1080	1080	23,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	695	675	680	23,360
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.04	4,000,000
Piltel	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,580,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	445	447.5	442.5	445	183,100
Ivantage Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	230,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	42,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	18,800
Manila Electric Co. B	38	38.5	38	38	52,200
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.78	16,725,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	130,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	120,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	884,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	260,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	163,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	14	108,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	32.5	33	217,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	118,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	18,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	50	49	49.5	82,200
San Miguel Corp. B	58.5	58.5	57.5	57.5	70,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	672,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	625,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.36	2.34	2.36	554,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.34	0.25	0.3	2,070,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	14,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	1,770,000
A Brown Company Inc	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	500,000
Crown Equities Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.5	14,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	210,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	26.5	27	26.5	27	2,600
Global Equities Inc	0.125	[illegible]	0.125	0.125	600,000
House Of Investments Inc	0.42	[illegible]	0.42	0.42	250,000
Ionics Inc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.2	7.2	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.7	1.74	385,000
Medco Holdings	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	390,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	530,000
Multitech Inv. Corp	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,400,000
Music Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	240,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.2	[illegible]	0.2	0.2	1,090,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	220,000
[illegible]	1.5	[illegible]	1.5	1.5	5,000
[illegible] Lab. Phil Inc.	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.65	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc	10.75	[illegible]	10.75	[illegible]	17,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	830,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	13	13	13	13	300
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	[illegible]	31.5	31.5	407,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	830	835	810	820	8,050
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	673,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	460,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3.05	3.2	3.05	3.1	15,375,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	110,000
SM Development Corp	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.02	182,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	[illegible]	6.1	5.8	5.9	21,429,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	5,800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	550,000
OIL					
Imperial Res	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	15,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,662,140	85,644,255.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,598,810	185,925,895.00
PRO	38,819,000	182,322,390.00
Mining	6,600,000	419,400.00
OIL	24,200,000	103,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	169,879,950	454,415,340.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	544.60	DOWN 3.25
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,836.05	DOWN 3.95
PRO	608.39	DOWN 6.31
Mining	1,321.97	DOWN 7.94
OIL	1.28	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	752.49	UP 1.12
Composite	1,349.63	DOWN 6.11

NO OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100. NO. OF TRADES: 1,685

CURRENCIES

May-17-2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.096491	1.000000	49.5450
Japan	Yen	0.008559	0.007806	0.3867
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597697	1.457100	72.1920
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140601	0.128228	6.3531
Switzerland	Franc	0.686594	0.626174	31.0238
Canada	Dollar	0.705820	0.643708	31.8925
Singapore	Dollar	0.607542	0.554078	27.4518
Australia	Dollar	0.602137	0.549149	27.2076
Bahrain	Dinar	2.908620	2.652661	131.4261
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292390	0.266660	13.2117
Brunei	Dollar	0.606466	0.553097	27.4032
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025601	0.023348	1.1568
UAE	Dirham	0.298544	0.272272	13.4897
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000794	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.912000	45.1850
Brazil	Real	0.440151	0.401445	19.8896
Denmark	Kroner	0.133494	0.122602	6.0743
India	Rupee	0.022638	0.020429	1.0122
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291465	0.263158	13.0382
Mexico	New Peso	0.116816	0.105764	5.2401
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503991	0.461404	22.8603
Norway	Kroner	0.132382	0.120671	5.9786
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018473	0.016681	0.8265
South Africa	Rand	0.109430	0.098549	4.8826
Sweden	Kroner	0.108156	0.098902	4.9001
Syria	Pound	0.025341	0.022883	1.1337
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032117	0.029036	1.4386
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001107	0.001000	0.0495

Gov't approves P2-B container terminal project in Mindanao

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTER-AGENCY Investment Coordination Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority has approved a P2-billion container terminal project to meet the fast-growing demand for cargo movement in the southern Philippines.

In a statement yesterday, the Neda-ICC said the project—the second phase of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP)—would extend the existing 300-meter terminal Phase I berth by 200 meters and put provisions for a wharf bulk loader and unloader.

Construction of the project is expected to begin in 2003 while full operation is targeted by 2006.

The Neda-ICC, which screens the development projects lined up for foreign assistance, said the new facility would cater to bulk cargo like fertilizer, animal feeds, grains, rice/palay and sugar, thus easing the heavily congested Cagayan de Oro Base Port.

The MCTP Phase II will be located on the shoreline of Macajalar Bay at Togolan, some 17 kilometers northeast by road from Cagayan de Oro City. It is within the vicinity of the Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental.

The project will also expand support facilities, including the terminal operation building, transit shed, maintenance shop, generator house, canteen and port workers room.

Of the total project cost, the Neda-ICC said 60 percent would be funded under the Special yen loan package from Japan while the remaining 40 percent would be taken from local counterpart funding.

The special package carries an interest rate of one percent, with a 40-year repayment period, inclusive of a 10-year grace period.

The MCTP Phase II has been designed to handle 2.3 million tons of dry and breakbulk cargoes and accommodate the berthing of one 20,000 DWT (deadweight ton) vessel to two 150 DWT vessels in a 200-meter berth length.

The Neda-ICC also said it had approved the extended implementation of three existing development projects:

- A 15.5-month extension of the European Community grant for the P6.6-billion partnerships component of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project.
- An 18-month expansion to December 2003 of the P2.5-billion integrated community health services project with the Asian Development Bank.
- A two-year extension to June 2004 of the P675.8-million European Union-assisted Palawan tropical forestry protection program.

Napocor, Mirant ink Baguio power supply agreement with Peza

MIRANT Philippines and the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) have signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to supply the electricity requirements of the Baguio City Economic Zone (BCEZ), one of the four public economic zones operated directly by Peza.

Under the 20-year agreement, Mirant and Napocor would provide a combined 16 megawatts to meet the economic zone's electricity demand.

Investments in the construction and improvement of the BCEZ electrical facilities will be undertaken by Mirant as part of the cooperation agreement with Napocor.

Among the key components of the supply agreement are the construction of a dedicated 14-kilometer, 69 kv sub-transmission line from Napocor Itogon to BCEZ and a new 40 MVA substation inside the zone to receive electricity from the Itogon substation.

The power supply agreement also requires the complete rehabilitation of the existing sub-transmission and interconnection facilities from Beckel/La Trinidad Napocor substation to the zone to ensure quality and reliable supply of electricity.

Mirant Philippines is the biggest private producer of electricity in the country.

BOI under fire for approving CR-V status change

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is under fire for giving Honda Cars Philippines Inc. the green light to change the status of its CR-V model from a sport utility vehicle to Asian utility vehicle.

A top executive of a Japanese assembler said a number of industry players have relayed informally their objection to the BOI's approval of the CR-V switch, which they claimed bastardized the government's AUV development program.

The status change allowed HCPI to reinvigorate the slumping CR-V line through a tax exemption under the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 10-seater rule. The tax perk, along with a downgraded engine and interiors, cut the CR-V's sticker price from P1.2 million in 2001 to as low as P899,000 this year.

But HCPI vice president Arnel Doria shrugged off what he described as a smear campaign against the CR-V. Doria, who dared HCPI's detractors to file their case in the proper forum, stressed that the shift was approved by the BOI, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Tariff Commission.

Doria said the BOI took note of HCPI's investment in a transmission factory in the country in allowing the switch while the BIR and the tariff agency validated the CR-V's compliance with the 10-seater requirement.

The CR-V used to be the leading SUV model in the country until the government imposed taxes on 4-wheel drive units, which immediately jacked up prices beyond the reach of its target market. Its share of the SUV market shrank from 52 percent to 2 percent in the last two years. With the CR-V 2002, Doria said HCPI was targeting sales of 5,000 units this year.

The source questioned the BOI's decision to grant AUV status to the CR-V when HCPI merely reconfigured the previous 5-seater model into a 10-seater unit by adding a fold-down seat at the back and a middle seat in the front row to comply with the 10-seater requirement.

The source said the decision was in direct contrast to the government's policy of plugging the loopholes in the AUV tax exemption incentives to prevent pricey SUVs from getting tax-free perks by adding jump seats in the back compartment. The source estimated that the government was losing P200,000 in excise taxes for every CR-V 2002 unit sold in the market.

DTI tightens rule on imported tire sale

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has ordered all imported tire dealers to give warranties or guarantees against factory defects as part of its consumer protection program.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the DTI would issue a circular laying down the guidelines on warranties on imported tires, including sanctions for non-compliance.

Cristobal said the order was triggered by numerous complaints from consumers that some dealers of imported tires did not give warranties or guarantees on their products.

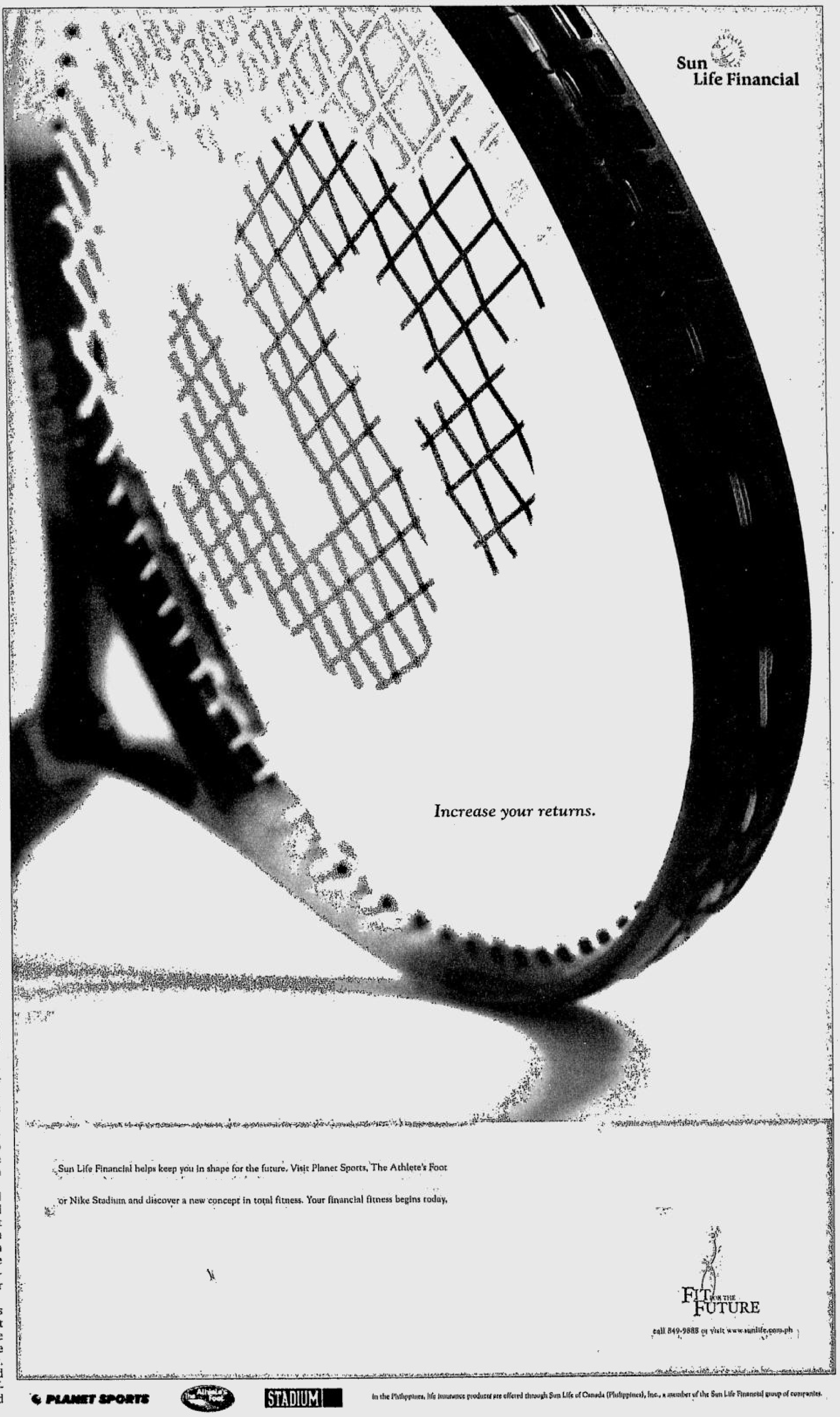
Under the draft circular order, the vendor shall be held responsible for hidden defects of the imported tires and an implied warranty exists when the buyer relies solely on the seller's skills or judgment on the quality of goods.

The DTI is apparently protecting the public against the flood of cheap tire imports into the country, some of which could be defective products dumped from other countries with more stringent regulations.

Cristobal said the vendors' warranty should allow for repair within a reasonable time and without charge; refund or replace without charge after a number of attempts have been made without any improvement; and give a discount. The warranty is void if the damage was due to reasonable use. Both the distributor and retailer would be held responsible for honoring the product warranties.

The circular bars distributors and retailers from refusing to honor the warranty without any valid reason; undue delay in honoring the warranty; removal of the warranty; and false advertisement of the existence of a warranty.

Violators will be fined between P500 and P300,000 depending on the gravity of the offense and their products condemned and seized.



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In the Philippines, life insurance products are offered through Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

Gov't says sugar production up, but imports still needed

THE PHILIPPINES is expected to import just 57,000 tons of sugar this year, or a third of what it bought last year, as local harvests may exceed initial estimates, the Sugar Regulatory Administration said yesterday.

Supply was also boosted because the United States said it did not need any more sugar this year, freeing up the remaining 56,000 tons that the Philippines was allowed to export under an existing program, they added.

The Philippines is a net importer but sells sugar to the United States at prices higher than the world market. It had a sales quota of 137,000 tons from October last year to September this year and has so far exported only 81,000 tons.

"It looks like we need to import just the MAV," SRA administrator James Ledesma said, referring to the 57,000-ton minimum access volume that the government committed to import at minimal tariffs this year as part of its agreement with the World Trade Organization.

"One of the major reasons is the request of the USDA (US Department of Agriculture) not to ship the remainder of our sugar quota," he said.

He also said higher harvests would reduce imports.

The Philippines bought 172,000 tons of both raw and refined sugar in 2001.

Ledesma said some local firms had started booking their sugar imports for arrival in the country mostly in the third quarter.

Ledesma projected that the country might harvest between 1.89 million and 1.9 million tons of raw sugar in the current crop year ending August, surpassing his initial fotecast of 1.85 million.

The country produced 1.805 million tons in the previous crop year.

"We have so far produced 1.78 million tons and some mills are still operating so there is a good chance that total production would reach 1.89-1.9 million," he said.

Milling in the current crop year started in September and would end in June.

V. Francisco Varua, president of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association, predicted a higher production of 1.92 million tons of raw sugar in the current crop year largely because of good weather.

Early this year, the government estimated a sugar shortfall of at least 100,000 tons this year. The country consumes between 1.8 million and 1.9 million tons of sugar a year.

Varua said he had initially estimated that the Philippines needed to buy another 50,000 tons to fill the shortfall in local output, besides the 57,000 tons that the country will import this year as part of its WTO commitment,.

"Local demand seems to be a bit slow (this year) and then production is a little bit higher, so we were thinking that in the worst situation we may have to import an additional 50,000 tons. But, because we don't have to ship out sugar to the United States anymore so other than the MAV we don't have to import more," he said.

Industry executives said they did not expect the El Niño weather pattern, which meteorologists say may recur in the country starting in October, to affect the 2002/2003 crop (Sept./Aug.). ***Reuters***

US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone (left) holds a conversation with Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo. The United States is offering to help the Philippines boost its economy through increased trade—not aid—as it seeks to further deepen its ties with one of its staunchest allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Government still confident on economic targets

THE PHILIPPINES is optimistic it will attain the targeted 4- to 4.5-percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year despite worrying signs from first-quarter budget deficit figures, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

The country overshot its budget deficit by 15.64 percent in the first three months of the year following poor tax collections and lower interest rates. Officials have blamed the poor revenues on lower-than-expected economic growth.

But Camacho told reporters: "There's no reason to expect that the GDP growth rate would be less than target . . . There's no concern about GDP growth rates."

Camacho was reacting to reports that the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, the two biggest tax and tariff collecting agencies in the country, wanted to scale down their revenue targets this year, believing that GDP would not grow fast enough to allow them to meet their targets. ***Reuters***

Ecop urges gov't to make public PPA review results

THE GROUP tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA), which makes up about half of the electric bills paid by consumers every month, must make public their findings before new rounds of power rate increases are made.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said this as debates raged over a petition filed earlier by the Manila Electric Co. with the Energy Regulatory Commission seeking more than P1 in power rate increase under its proposed unbundled billings.

Ms Macapagal ordered the review last Labor Day.

"The findings should be made public so that the affected parties including the business sector can come out with well founded positions on the issue," Dee said in a telephone interview. "This will also make the process of adjusting electricity rate transparent and credible," he added.

For quite a time, the business community has been clamoring for the reduction of electricity rates in the Philippines which are the second highest in Asia next to Japan. This prompted the government to seek through Congress the passage of a law for the dismantling and sale of the state-run National Power Corp. which has been heavily losing for over a decade.

The law that breaks Napocor into smaller generating companies plus a national transmission corporation was passed last year. Its implementing rules and regulations were approved only recently.

The unbundling of electricity rates, based on the itemized billings submitted by distributors, is seen to result in rate increases. It also became clear that the expensive electricity that the government has agreed to buy from privately owned power plants, whether used or not, is passed on to consumers. This often doubles the monthly bills that the consumers have to pay. ***Abe P. Belena, Philexport News and Features***

PLDT obtains $8.8-M loan

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has secured an $8.8-million long-term loan facility from Export Development Canada.

The amount will be used to partly fund PLDT's equipment and services acquisition from Canadian telecommunications equipment supplier Nortel Networks Inc. for the expansion of PLDT's domestic fiber-optic network (DFON).

The expansion forms part of the company's goal of creating a fully digitized, internationally connected national network capable of providing a broad range of fast, reliable and competitive broadband, data and (Internet protocol) services, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in a statement.

EDC executive vice president Eric Siegel, for his part, said the Canadian financial institution was looking forward to providing more "competitive direct financing" to other Canadian exporters seeking to do business in the Philippines and the rest of Asia.

EDC provides trade financing, and risk management services to Canadian exporters and investors in about 200 markets.

PLDT recently signed a multimillion-dollar contract with Nortel Networks for the DFON expansion project, which will further enhance the capabilities of PLDT's fiber-optic backbone.

Nortel will also deploy an additional optical switch, the OPTera Connect DX, which will enable the DFON to support an increase in network capacity, services provisioning and reliability.

The DFON expansion contract is the third major contract awarded by PLDT to Nortel since the initial deployment of Nortel's OPTera Long Haul 1600 Optical-Line System for the DFON in December two years ago.

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Thrift banks' bad loans down 14% to ₱17.7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

NON-PERFORMING loans or bad loans of the country's more than 100 thrift banks dropped by 14 percent to P17.73 billion in February from P20.62 billion in January, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed.

The same data showed that the ratio of bad loans to the thrift banks' total loan portfolio improved from 13.67 percent in January to 12.61 percent in February.

The improvement in the thrift banks' NPL ratio was also attributed to the 6.75-percent drop in their loan portfolio, to P14.64 billion in February from P150.81 billion a month ago.

Last year, the thrift banks' bad loans stood at only 12.2 percent, or P16.01 billion, of the total portfolio worth P131.28 billion.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal and interest remained unpaid for at least 90 days after due date.

Taking the interbank loans out of the equation, the thrift banks' NPL ratio is also lower to 13.08 percent in February from the previous month's 14.3 percent but higher from the previous year's 12.74 percent.

The central bank noted that the coverage ratio of thrift banks in February had improved as well to 53.38 percent from 47.35 percent a month ago as the 13.99-percent drop in the NPL level more than offset the 3.04-percent reduction in loan loss reserves.

The coverage ratio indicates whether banks have enough reserves to cover defaults.

Gross restructured loans, however, rose slightly to 2.65 percent from 2.53 percent in January. The proportion went up despite a 2.38-percent contraction in restructured loans to P3.72 billion from P3.81 billion in the previous month.

The BSP noted that the overall asset quality of the country's thrift banks in February deteriorated as the ratio of bad assets rose to 17.7 percent of gross assets from 17.59 percent in January. The 5.17-percent contraction in gross assets outweighed the 4.58-percent drop in bad assets.

Still, the coverage ratio for the bad assets moved up to 23.05 percent from 22.8 percent in January.

In the meantime, the asset quality of the country's 44 commercial banks also worsened in February as more bad loans and idle real estate holdings continued to pile up.

In a statement issued earlier, the BSP said that the commercial banking sector's non-performing loan ratio moved up to 18.40 percent in February from the month-ago level of 18.30 percent. A year ago, the banks' share of bad loans to its total loan portfolio was 16.62 percent.

The increase in the commercial banks' NPL ratio was brought about by the P5.6-billion increase in the amount of soured loans to P295.6 billion from P290 billion, which was offset partly by the banks' increased lending activity.

The BSP data showed that private-sector banks had started to be more aggressive in lending. All banks, except those owned by the government, posted loan growth, driving the commercial banks' total loan portfolio up to P1.606 trillion, or P21.4 billion more than the previous month's level.

Awash with liquidity, banks are being pressured to lend to the private sector as yields of government borrowings have been declining sharply.

ERC completes hearings on Davao Light's petition

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has wrapped up the hearings on Davao Light and Power Co.'s petition for unbundled rates, which seeks an average rate increase of 24 centavos per kilowatthour.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said in an interview that the hearings on Dalight's petition were shorter compared with that of the Manila Electric Co.'s because there was no objection to the petition.

ERC records show that the quasi-judicial body conducted hearings on the petition of Dalight for only two days. The ERC, however, has yet to make its decision on the petition.

Dalight is an Aboitiz-controlled distribution utility based in Davao. It is the biggest in Mindanao.

The hearings on Meralco's petition, however, took at least five sessions due to the big number of groups opposing it. The last was held on April 17 but the ERC yet to decide on the Meralco case.

"I think (yesterday's) hearing is the last on Dalight's petition since there is no opposition," Barin told the INQUIRER.

However, she said an opposing party, which she did not name, had written the ERC, saying the hearings should be held in Davao.

"We cannot do that, so we just told them to submit their opposition in writing," she added.

Unbundling refers to the itemization of electricity rates into generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other charges.

"Dalight is asking for a 24-centavo rate hike but this does not mean it will be the same figure that will be approved," Barin added.

She also said that all the unbundling petitions from about 20 power utilities in the country sought electricity rate increases.

Barin said the common justification for increased rates in the petitions was the discrepancy between the costs of doing business when the petitioners last adjusted their rates and the costs of business in 2000, the base year for the petitions.

"In the case of Dalight, its last rate adjustment was in 1992," she said. "Naturally, there will be a difference."

Microsoft's business solutions unit posts 40% increase in sales

By Abigail L. Ho

BAGUIO CITY—Microsoft Great Plains, the business solutions arm of software giant Microsoft Corp., posted a 40-percent increase in sales revenues in the third quarter of its fiscal year ending June.

In a briefing yesterday, MSGP professional services manager for Asia-Pacific Perry Beebe said its business in the region had shown growth despite the tough economic environment.

"MSGP's business here has expanded as opposed to its competitors. It has shown an upward trend, and it is expected to continue this trend," he said.

The business solutions provider has enhanced its professional services in the region to better meet the needs of its partners and customers without relying very much on the support from its main office in the United States.

Beebe said customer and partner support always had to overcome several barriers when given directly from the US office. These include time, cultural and business differences.

He explained that it was difficult to get quick responses from the main office because of the time difference between Asia-Pacific and North America. He said it would be faster and more efficient to have a local support base.

"We need to have a local support team to cover the requirements of our partners and our customers," he said.

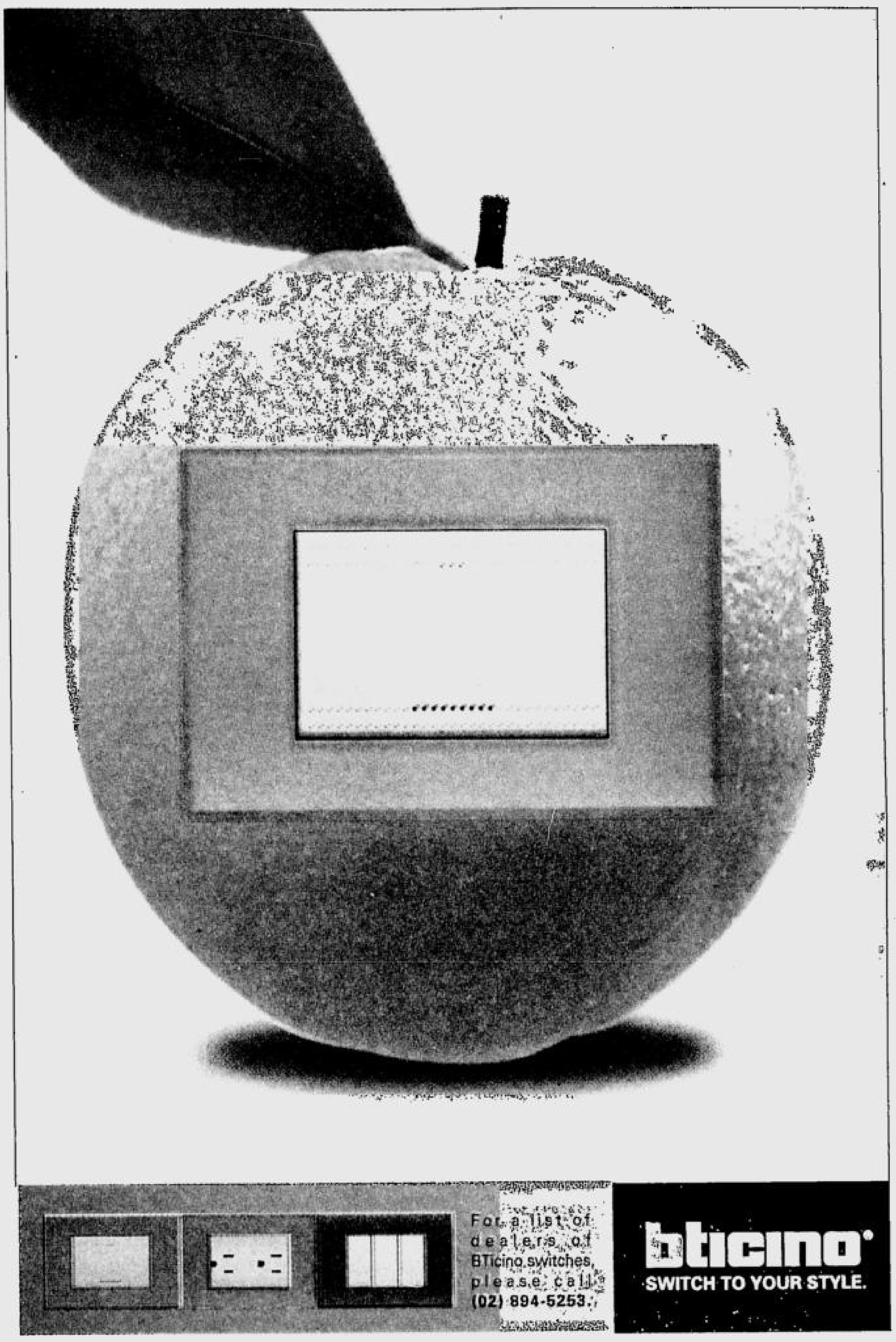
MSGP's professional service initiative is expected to contribute initially 10 percent of the company's overall revenues in the Asia-Pacific. This figure is seen to hit 40 percent in the next three years.

One-third of the 10-percent contribution is expected to come from the Philippines, while the other two-thirds is seen to come from Singapore and Australia.

Its professional services are divided into three areas: training, support and consulting.

Under training, both MSGP partners and customers would undergo individual or group training in standard or customized courses and courseware.

As for support, this was divided into two categories: traditional telephony and electronic support (eSupport).



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Digital future

FUJIFILM, through its exclusive Philippine distributor YKL Trading and Development Corp., is bringing the future of digital photography closer to its retail partners and customers with the recent unveiling of a complete line of high-quality imaging products and services.

In a recent dealer's convention at the Edsa Plaza Hotel, Fujifilm underscored its commitment to bring the complete picture-taking and -making process to its customers through its digital film cameras and digital photo finishing using the Frontier Digital Lab Systems.

Seminar on NPLs, NPAs

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), through its Professional Development Committee, will hold the "No-nonsense Credit Management/Goldmining of NPLs and NPAs" seminar on May 20-21, at the Mulawin Room, Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Finex will have as speaker credit and collection expert Erdulfo S. Sison, president/ CEO of Business Assistance Credit Cop.

Registration fee for two days is P3,000 for Finex members; P3,500 for guests or non-Finex members, inclusive of lunch and snacks and seminar book and materials.

AIA's 'Cosmedic' centers

AIA Hinoki Clinical, a Filipino-Japanese company that offers skin-care line, is embarking on an expansion program that calls for the expansion and establishment of more "cosmedic" centers in Luzon.

AIA Hinoki Clinical was established in 1999 by some of the best minds in the industry who saw the need to revitalize the cosmetics industry and offer Filipinos quality personal-care products and business opportunities too.

To ensure the availability of the company's products and services, AIA president Teddy B. Gutierrez said the company would put up a total of 40 "Cosmedics" centers in Metro Manila and Luzon by year-end.

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Mechanics: Promo is valid from May 20 until July 31, 2002 for roundtrip inter-continental KLM World Business Class tickets purchased in the Philippines. • Amsterdam Airport Duty Free Shopping Vouchers maybe claimed at the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Ticket Office at 160 L. P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Office hours are 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays except holidays. • Please present original ticket when claiming the shopping voucher. Vouchers should be claimed prior to departure. **Terms & conditions:** Only roundtrip KLM World Business Class tickets originating from and ending in Manila to Europe, the Americas, or Africa are qualified for the promotion. • Departure date out of Manila must be between May 20 and July 31, 2002. Return flight to Manila should be within a year from date of departure. Should an open dated ticket be purchased, return flight to Manila should be within one year from date of ticket issuance, but departure flight out of Manila should be within promotion period of May 20 and July 31, 2002. • Original ticket copy must be presented when claiming the shopping voucher. The voucher must be claimed prior to departure. • Shopping voucher will only be issued at KLM Ticket Office located at the ground floor of The Athenaeum Building, 160 L. P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. Shopping vouchers cannot be issued in the airport. • A cancelation charge of US$100 will be levied on both totally or partially used tickets presented for refund. • Free, no value, WorldPerks/Flying Dutchman free award travel, agency/industry discount tickets are not eligible. • For more information, please call KLM Reservations at (02) 8154790 or e-mail Reservations.Philippines@klm.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0939, Series of 2002

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

6th Philippine Academic Bookfair set

THE ASSOCIATION of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions is holding the 6th Philippine Academic Book Fair from July 15 to 19 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City. This year's theme is "Books: Keys to Creativity and Development."

With more than 50 booths, visitors can expect a feast of the latest books and other educational materials covering almost all areas of discipline—from scientific and technical, medical and allied health, education, criminology, law general references to children's books as well as Filipiniana materials. They are suitable for all levels of readers, from preschool to tertiary and post-graduate.

According to Virgie P. Gapuz, Abap president, "schools who are under accreditation will greatly benefit from this event as they will be able to inspect and buy books under one roof. Another is that books purchased at the book fair will be available at discounted prices."

An annual feature of the book fair is a series of seminars for teachers and librarians. The schedule and topics of which would be announced later.

Also scheduled is the 5th Davao Book Fair on Aug. 13 to 16 at the Apo View Hotel, Davao City. More regional book fairs are scheduled this year, especially in Central Visayas.

For inquiries, call Beth Solquio of 27 Masikap Street, Barangay Pinyahan, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City at telephone number 927-9858 or 435-5727.

Academic Achievement Awa
ERICSSON

ERICSSON SPONSORS GTAAA

Swedish telecom manufacturer Ericsson has signed as one of the major sponsors in the 7th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). GTAAA is Globe's core social responsibility program promoting student excellence and the only industry-academe linkage program in the telecoms and IT industries. Shown during the sponsorship signing are (from left) Globe Telecom community relations officer Melissa Fontanilla, Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Ericsson Philippines vice president Hasse Olausson and Ericsson Philippines director for market development and communications Mona Magno-Veluz.

"TRENDS & DEVELOPMENT
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APRIL 17-
BAGUIO

ANDAYA GETS PAGBA SUPPORT

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr (center) answers questions on the procurement reform bill pending before Congress during the first quarterly membership meeting of the Philippine Association for Government Budget Administration (Pagba) held in Baguio City recently. The 5,000-strong Pagba, composed of mostly budget officers of all government agencies nationwide, approved a resolution to support the proposed measure that seeks to eliminate graft and corruption in government procurement.

RLC APPOINTS RECIO+CASAS

Robinsons Land Corp., one of the country's leading real estate companies, has appointed Recio+Casas as architect for the Fullerton Place, the company's newest residential projects. The agreement was recently formalized during a contract signing between RLC's high-rise buildings division represented by its general manager Danilo E. Ignacio (third from left) and architect Carmelo Casas, principal architect of Recio+Casas (fourth from left). Also present were (from left) RLC-HRBD's project manager Roger Vinluan, RLC-HRBD's marketing services director Malou Serna and architect Jose Pedro Recio, principal architect, Recio+Casas.

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LWR SENDS WINNER TO FRANCE

Winner of the Lourdes World Research (LWR) raffle promo 'Help a Child and Fly Free to Lourdes' Lucia Lloren is awarded by Monsignor Manuel Gabriel, the pilgrimage spiritual tour guide, and Marc Paz, LWR representative. The raffle was held recently at the Pasig Parish Formation Center under the supervision of a DTI representative. They are scheduled to leave for Lourdes, France and Belgium on June 16. All those who participated in the raffle are encouraged to write their petitions and prayers to Our Lady of Lourdes and send it to Lourdes World Research, PO Box 3407 QCCPO, 1174 Quezon City. Lloren will personally offer all your prayers and petitions to the blessed grotto in Lourdes, France.

Product FILES

La Corona de Pagsanjan summer package

LA CORONA de Pagsanjan, a resort hotel situated along Pagsanjan River and nearest to the Pagsanjan Falls, offers a summer group outing package of P320 per person including set lunch and snack, use of swimming pools, picnic huts and other sports facilities. Optional services include a boat/raft ride to Pagsanjan Falls and overnight accommodation. La Corona Pagsanjan also offers a live-in seminar and conference package. For inquiries, call sales and marketing at 524-2631 to 38.

UST Philets grand reunion

THE MUCH-AWAITED grand reunion of the graduates and former students of the faculty of Philosophy and Letters, known as Philets of the University of Santo Tomas, will be held on May 25, Saturday, with a dinner dance starting at 7 p.m. at the Quezon City Sports Club.

This was announced by Vic del Fierro Jr., PRO and member of the Philets board of trustees. The current officers include Neal Cruz as chair, Roy Acosta, president, Bert Lumauig, vice president, Tita Reverente, treasurer, and Lalie Dua Garcia, secretary.

With the theme "The Summer of 50s and 60s, the gathering will be a night of fun, nostalgia, recognition, fellowship and humor for all Philets, many of whom have excelled in the fields of journalism, entrepreneurship, public advocacy, literature, foreign service, public relations, advertising, marketing, entertainment and government service.

The Philets foundation holds the unique distinction of producing the biggest names in Philippine history, arts, letters and other disciplines dating back from the time of Jose Rizal to the current big names of columnists, publishers, political propagandists, militant social activists, ambassadors, consultants, movie personalities, academicians, and public servants.

All members, graduates and former Philets are enjoined to come in their most comfortable summer clothes—short sleeve Hawaiian or floral shirts and dresses.

Ladies who can come in their old Philets uniforms of blue skirt and white blouse with blue ribbon shall be given special recognition along with the one who can bring the biggest number of former Philets.

For more particulars, call Joe Burgos Jr. at 928-5117, Vic del Fierro Jr at 776-2763 and 821-6417, Annie Roxas at 635-2980 to 81, Lalie Dua-Garcia at 0916-4526846, Neal Cruz at 931-598, or Roy Acosta at 645-0061.

BITS Clips

American studies summer confab

DE LA SALLE University, in cooperation with the Public and Cultural Affairs Office of the United States Embassy, will be holding a two-day conference with the theme "Conflict Management and Resolution: the US Experience" on May 24 and 25 at the Gaerlan Conservatory, De La Salle University, Taft Avenue, Manila. The conference will be the highlight of the 3rd American Studies Summer Institute on "International Women's Human Rights: A Response to Fundamentalism" from May 6 to 11, and "US Efforts at Conflict Management and Resolution: Negotiations and the 'Isms'" from May 13 to 23. There is a registration fee of P500 for the 2-day conference, which will be able to accommodate up to 150 participants only. Call Bro. Gregory Wright, FSC, coordinator of the American Studies Program, International Studies Department, De La Salle University, or Sheng Nava, research assistant of International Studies Department at 524-4611 local 545, telefax 526-5917 or e-mail assi2002_isd@yahoo.com.

Superkalan Gaz summer promo

IN ITS BID to reach a wider market, Superkalan Gaz, a wholly owned subsidiary of TotalFinaElf Philippines, wears a drop-down price tag in time for its new and exciting summer promo called "Preskong Presko." Offered at special discounted prices, the Superkalan I (SK I) appliance set which includes 2.7-kg cylinder tanks and SK I head is now available in Metro Manila for only P890 from its regular price of P1,200. For provincial areas, the SK I set is now being sold at P995 from its regular price of P1,350. The Superkalan Gaz Presyong Presko summer promo is ongoing until May 31. For inquiries, call Cherry Gatan at 849-0991.

New schedule for writing workshop

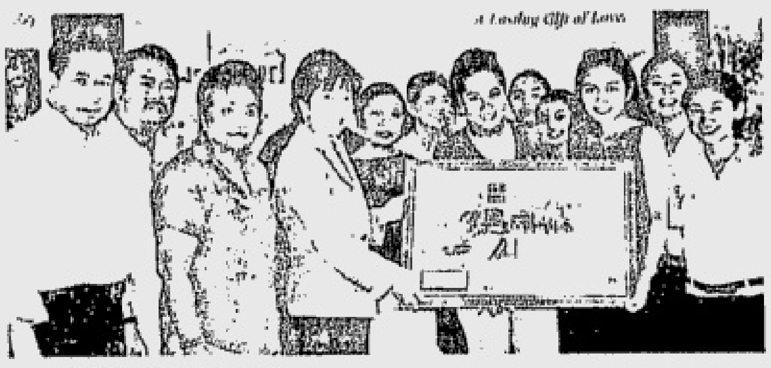
A NEW schedule for a writing workshop in May for Filipino children aged 9 to 18 has been set by Tower Book House. The workshop hopes to tap children who have the gift of writing as well as those who simply want to improve their writing skills. The workshop includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying this style in various forms of communication. From style, the workshop tackles essay writing, feature writing, journalism, short story writing, and playwriting, reviews of books, movies and concerts. Field trips, from which writing exercises shall be drawn, are also included. Emphasis shall be on actual submission of works, which shall be critiqued objectively. Discussion will be on a one-on-one basis. The workshop will be conducted by one of the country's established book authors, Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre in the morning (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.) and afternoon (1 to 3 p.m.). For inquiries, call 815-4938, 815-6925, cell nos. 0918-9159337 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

HK trip for SFC marketing studes

A FIVE-DAY educational trip to Hong Kong on May 20 to 24 is integrated into the marketing practice course this summer at Southville Foreign Colleges at BF International, Las Piñas City as part of the students' practical training and exposure to the industry. The three-week course, which commenced May 6, will have the students, accompanied by their lecturers, fly to Hong Kong to give them an opportunity to conduct industrial visits in an international ad agency, a commercial production company and a manufacturing corporation. London City College, a renowned business college under the auspices of Schiller International University, provides the course curriculum, accreditation and teaching methodology for all business courses offered at Southville Foreign Colleges. For inquiries, call Joyce Cudale at 820-9181, 820-6774, or visit www.sfc-colleges.com.

CHILDREN OF DREAMS

Ayala Foundation celebrates 40 years of uplifting the lives of many Filipinos with a special musical featuring the children of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex). Centex provides bright children from underprivileged communities with quality education at par with the best private schools in the country. The Centex children presented the musical 'Ala-Ala-Mat' to thank Ayala Foundation's donors and partners on Funders' Night recently at Onstage, Greenbelt Mall.



DESIGN CONTEST

Quadrillion Group of Companies, developer of the La Joya de Sta. Rosa residential community, and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designs recently launched the first Students Interior Design Contest for the model units of the various homes of La Joya de Sta. Rosa. Open to students taking up interior design, the contest sparked a surge of entries from Assumption College, College of the Holy Spirit, St. Scholastica's College, University of the East, and University of Santo Tomas. Shown (from left) are architect Gerry Contreras, architect Arlen de Guzman, PIID president Belen Morey, Quadrillion Group president and CEO Elsie Chua, Shell Canvas owner Dolly Ching (partly hidden), Palafox and Associates partner Liza Caguingin, interior designer Ivy Almario and students from Assumption College.

Ilusorio widow receives UERMMMC award

PHILANTHROPIST Erlinda Kalaw Ilusorio was honored recently with a plaque of distinction by the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center for her contribution to the community outreach program of the medical institution in Antipolo City.

In accepting the award, the widow of billionaire Potenciano Ilusorio expressed her appreciation and at the same time remarked that the honor rightfully belonged to her late husband who, she said, unselfishly gave her material and moral support in every philanthropic endeavor the couple chose to undertake.

UERMMMC College of Medicine dean Esperanza Lansang cited the role of the Ilusorio couple in providing the use of a building to house the members of the medical team participating in the community outreach program in Antipolo.

The simple ceremony, held at the UERMMMC multimedia room in Quezon City, was attended by UERMMMC officials, faculty members and some Ilusorio family members.

Ateneo College '77 Vismin gathering

IN PREPARATION for the silver jubilee reunion to be held at the Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights campus at the Annual Homecoming on Dec. 7 to 8, there was a gathering of all members of College Class '77 based in the Visayas and Mindanao. Reunion Vismin coordinator Stephen Tan announced that the gathering was held May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Wine Cellar, Tinderbox, Banilad Road, Cebu City. Jun Dalandan, director of the alumni affairs office of the Ateneo de Manila University and Irma Cecilio, overall coordinator of the Class '77 Silver Jubilee celebration, attended the gathering to give a briefing of the activities for the Grand Reunion to be held at the Loyola Heights campus. For further information, call Issa Vallarta Cusi at (032) 344-6064, 0916-4874883, and Tommy Alonso at (032)253-5136.

Li'l Hands Club fun day

LI'L HANDS, a well-known brand name when it comes to arts and crafts materials for kids, recently celebrated the 4th anniversary of Li'l Hands Club recently at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City. Li'l Hands invites the public once more on May 18 when Li'l Hands celebrates its 11th Fun Day at the Eskwela Expo 2002, Megatrade Hall 3, Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Expect lots of fun and surprises as free workshops for different age brackets will be conducted by five well-loved facilitators. Storytelling for the toddlers, category 1 for ages 4 to 6 Crayola—"Colorful Night Portrait", category 2 for ages 7 to 9, Li'l Hands—"Summer Mobile Craft", category 3 for ages 10 to 12 Sanford/Amspec Bond—"Festival Mask", and category 4 for ages 13 and up Lotus/Mongol—"Still Life Distortion". For more details call 842-1515 to 17 or 568-5868 to 76, or e-mail club@lilhands.com.

US isolated as OECD decries protectionism over steel, farm

PARIS—Washington got a blunt message from the rest of the world's wealthy nations over steel tariffs and farming subsidies on Thursday: Do not resort to protectionism.

Trade and finance ministers of the other 29 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development took the United States to task during a two-day meeting at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

"Grave concerns were expressed about a return to protectionism in the last few months," Guy Verhofstadt, Belgian prime minister and chair of the OECD talks, said.

He blamed the tariffs on foreign steel imports into the United States and recently announced plans for billions of dollars in subsidies to US crop and dairy farmers.

"The messages during the talks were very clear, and those who needed to hear certainly heard," he said.

A communiqué issued in the OECD's name—despite US objections, according to diplomats—said all OECD members were committed to pledges made in Doha, Qatar, last year to pursue free trade and take account of developing countries.

"We welcome the launch of the Doha Development Agenda and reaffirm our pledge to reject the use of protectionism," it said.

The diplomats said US envoys objected to a communiqué that would dub them as "protectionist" even if it did not mention the United States by name.

Deputy US Trade Representative Peter Allgeier told a news conference after the OECD meeting that Washington was still committed to free trade.

"The United States reiterated our very strong unequivocal commitment to negotiate across the full range of topics in the Doha agenda to meet the overall deadline of completing the negotiations by January of 2005 and to meet the intermediate deadlines such as we face in the coming months," he said.

Others showed little confidence.

The 18-nation Cairns Group of farming nations from Australia and Canada to Paraguay and the Philippines—some of them not OECD members—issued a statement in Paris of its own attacking Washington's farm aid.

"At $180 billion over the next decade, the sheer size of this package will hurt farmers round the world," it said. "The impact will be particularly damaging on developing countries, net food exporters and importers alike."

The tension was palpable during the talks, with another member of the US delegation, Andrew Natsios of the US Agency for International Development, accusing the other leading trade bloc, the European Union, of hypocrisy.

"I would just urge the Europeans to stop their protectionist stand and look at their own policies, which are the problem," Natsios told reporters.

"I think there's a little hypocrisy in arguing that our subsidies are a problem. If the Europeans would reform their subsidies we'd certainly be willing to discuss the subject," he said. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy avoided aggressive rhetoric and said the European Union would pursue efforts to ease tensions.

He said he believed US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Allgeier, the deputy sent to Paris, were in favor of trade reform, hinting that they were under extreme pressure back in the United States.

"What remains to be seen is whether they can speak in the name of the United States," Lamy, who negotiates trade deals at international level on behalf of the 15-nation European Union, told reporters.

The spats on steel and farm aid have overshadowed efforts to get a new round of global trade liberalization on track since a major meeting in Doha and pitted the world's two largest trading powers against each other. *Reuters*

Japan's finance minister miffed by downgrades

TOKYO—Japan's finance minister reiterated Friday his displeasure with the recent sovereign debt downgrades from ratings agencies that point to the nation's long economic slowdown and growing government debt.

"We used to think credit ratings were a more sacred thing based on quantitative analysis," Masajuro Shiokawa told a Lower House committee, adding that the agencies may be losing their credibility.

Japan has been outraged by the recent successive downgrading of the government's sovereign debt ratings by Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

The Finance Ministry has sent letters to them asking for clarification and has received replies from Moody's and Fitch, defending their moves. *AP*

World Bank earmarks $5B for Mexico

WASHINGTON—The World Bank said on Thursday it expected to lend Mexico $5 billion between 2003 and 2005 for projects including tax reform, better infrastructure and investment in health and education.

"Mexico has made remarkable progress over the past three years in deepening its democracy, strengthening its institutions and achieving macroeconomic stability," Olivier Lafourcade, director of the bank's Mexico program, said in a statement.

"The World Bank plans to continue, through this new strategy, to work in partnership with the Mexican government."

The money is part of the bank's Country Assistance Strategy for Mexico. Within that strategy, the fund will be divided into individual loans which have to be approved by the World Bank board.

The bank said even though Mexico made headway in raising gross national product in recent years, 45 million Mexicans still lived in poverty.

The Mexican economy has suffered along with the slowdown in the United States, and the bank notes that Mexico is exposed to volatility in world markets.

As such, the country "needs to renew much of its infrastructure, while deepening reforms to its financial sector and governance to remain competitive," the bank said.

The bank said its projects would support tax and labor market reforms and improvements to infrastructure.

The bank said the country would also need to boost its productivity in the agricultural sector to compete with Canada and the United States. There would also be a drive to help small and medium-sized businesses, the bank said. *Reuters*

Washington pledges to hold talks on agricultural issues

PARIS—The United States pledged Thursday to negotiate a full range of reforms to trade in agriculture in the current round of WTO multilateral negotiations launched in the Qatari capital of Doha last November.

Deputy US Trade Representative Peter Allgeier, addressing reporters at an OECD ministerial meeting here, said he had "reiterated our commitment to negotiate an ambitious reform package in agriculture, including all three pillars of market access, export subsidies and domestic support."

The United States sparked worldwide outrage earlier this week with President George W. Bush's signature on legislation that boosted government support to US farmers.

Critics charged that the move undermined Washington's commitment to principles agreed at Doha, which called in particular for the new round of global trade talks to consider the elimination of trade distorting agricultural export subsidies.

Allgeier maintained that the US farm bill merely boosted domestic support for agriculture within limits approved by the World Trade Organization and had nothing to do with subsidies that specifically help farmers to export their products. *AFP*

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the stockholders of **Bankard, Inc.**, (the "Corporation") will be held at the **St. La Salle Hall, Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, Level 5, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines on Thursday, 30 May 2002, at 2:30 in the afternoon.**

AGENDA

I. Call to order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting of the stockholders
IV. Presentation of Annual Report
V. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the year 2001
VI. Ratification of the actions taken by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting of the stockholders
VII. Election of Directors for the ensuing year
VIII. Appointment of external auditors
IX. Other business
X. Adjournment

The record date for determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on April 30, 2002.

Registration starts at two o'clock in the afternoon. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring any form of valid identification.

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Singapore on solid path to recovery this year

SINGAPORE—Singapore's struggling economy is turning the corner, with signs of improvement in the first quarter, as leading indicators and sentiment pick up alongside recoveries by the export-driven island's major trading partners.

Analysts say strong growth in the first quarter over the last quarter of 2001 puts to rest doubts the momentum would be sustained as the city state emerges from its worst recession in four decades.

"Market expectations for the economy have moved up strongly since the US showed such a strong first quarter," said Joseph Tan, an economist at Standard Chartered Bank.

"For (Singapore's) second quarter GDP, we expect it to move out of year-on-year contraction. It is likely to be below 4 percent."

Singapore's gross domestic product shrank 1.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter but grew a robust 7.7 percent versus the last three months of 2001, the government said on Friday morning.

The numbers were in line with Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's projection during his recent budget presentation.

Momentum intact

The numbers may be looking better but Singapore still faces the problems of structural unemployment and greater competition from cheaper manufacturing centers such as China and India.

The government is trying to diversify the economy into areas like health sciences, services and knowledge-based sectors, while slashing business costs through tax cuts and other incentives.

"A lot depends on the momentum quarter to quarter. It will continue to be fairly good," Tan Kong Yam, chief economist of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, told a news conference.

"The second quarter will start to get close to zero, slightly positive or negative, and the third quarter will be positive."

The Singapore dollar rose to fresh seven-month highs after the Monetary Authority of Singapore said the currency's recent strength had not broken its policy band.

The Singapore dollar climbed to 1.795 against the US dollar—its best level since last October—from around 1.8027/37 before the central bank's statement.

The government revised its official forecast for 2002 GDP growth to 2 to 4 percent from one to 3 percent, its third upward revision since late last year.

The city state's economy contracted 2 percent last year after a blazing 10.3-percent growth in 2000.

The composite leading index, which tracks economic activity about three quarters ahead, rose 10 percent in the first quarter, double the 4.7-percent rise in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Business expectations also improved, with industrialists who were bullish outweighing those apprehensive about recovery prospects for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2000. The ministry said although commerce and services firms remained cautious, more were forecasting better prospects in the next six months.

Manufacturing boosts

The manufacturing sector saw the biggest improvement, with the year-on-year decline moderating to minus 3.7 percent in the first quarter from minus 19 percent in the previous quarter.

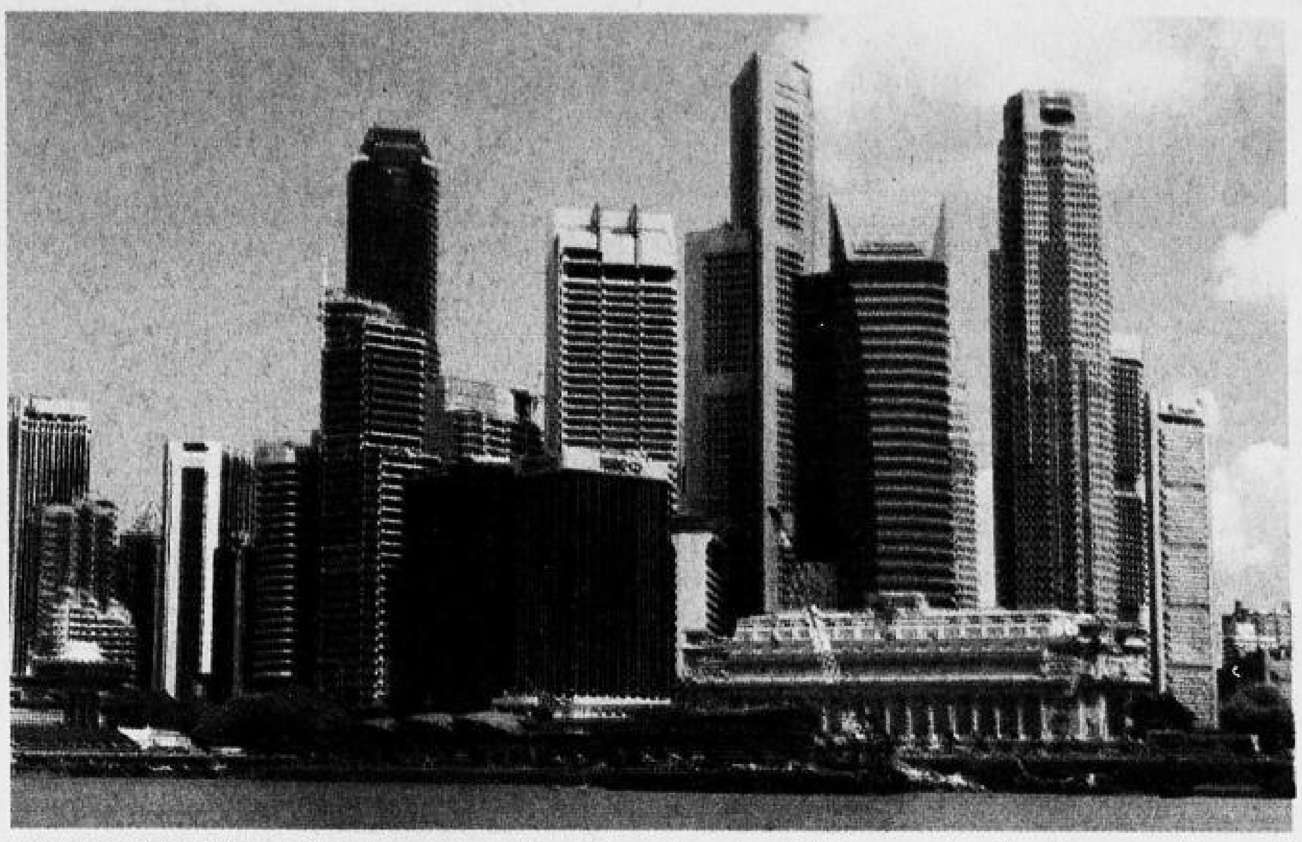
Quarterly growth was up for the second consecutive quarter.

The key electronics sector fell 13 percent in the first quarter, but that was an improvement over the 29-percent plunge in the fourth quarter of last year.

The weakest sector—construction—continued to languish, down 9 percent year-on-year. Financial services were down 3.2 percent on the year and 19.4 percent quarter-on-quarter.

"There is nothing wildly worrying in that we do expect a cyclical upturn," Sanjeev Sanyal, an economist at Deutsche Bank, told Reuters. "The data coming out of the United States, especially consumer spending, seems like it's still very strong."

"The real issue for Singapore is the story about structural change," he said. ***Reuters***



SINGAPORE'S high-rise building dominate the skyline. Recession-hit Singapore should return to positive economic growth by the third quarter, the government said upon releasing figures showing a 1.7-percent year-on-year contraction for the March quarter. AFP

Singapore's key exports up 6.4% in April

SINGAPORE—Singapore's key exports grew 6.4 percent in April from a year earlier, ending 13 months' of declines, according to official data released Friday.

The improvement in non-oil domestic exports, regarded as the barometer of Singapore's trade performance, was led by a strong performance in petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The overall chemicals and chemical products sector rose 33.7 percent year-on-year in April, up from a 1.3-percent growth recorded the previous month.

There was a distinct improvement in the core electronics sector with a 0.7-percent contraction in April from an 18.3-percent decline in March.

Singapore's trade watchdog, International Enterprise Singapore, attributed the improvement to "the gradual pickup in the US economy and the regional demand."

But it cautioned weakness persisted in most electronics items, with the decline in exports of PCs and telecommunications equipment deepening.

Total trade rose 5.5 percent to S$37.516 billion (US$20.84 billion) in April, with exports up 7.7 percent to S$19.443 billion.

The government earlier released figures showing Singapore's gross domestic product contracted 1.7 percent in the first quarter of the year, but on a quarter-on-quarter basis it improved 7.7 percent.

With economic data continuing to point to an economy on the mend, the government earlier this month raised its GDP forecast for the year to between 2 and 4 percent from one to 3 percent. ***AFP***

Asia server market sales rise 0.9%

SINGAPORE—Internet server market revenues in the Asia-Pacific rose by a mere 0.9 percent in the March quarter compared with the previous year due to sharply lower Chinese shipments, an industry research group said Friday.

But analysts described the Chinese fall as an "anomaly," saying server sales in the giant market would pick up over the rest of the year.

Revenues in seven key markets totaled $1.04 billion, up from $1.03 billion last year.

Compared to the December quarter, however, revenues declined by 10.6 percent, market research firm Gartner Dataquest said.

Only Singapore and India reported year-on-year revenue growth during the quarter, it said in a report.

Singapore saw revenues rise 26 percent to $58.99 million on the year, while India expanded 2 percent to $54.46 million.

China had revenues shrinking 0.9 percent on the year to $329.86 million but by a sharper 19.4 percent when compared to the previous quarter.

Year-on-year, server revenues in South Korea fell 3 percent, Australia 3.6 percent, Taiwan 9.9 percent and Hong Kong 15.6 percent.

"There was certainly a lot of momentum in China during the build up to WTO (World Trade Organization) acceptance in the fourth quarter of 2001," said Gartner principal analyst Matthew Boon.

"Contrasting the busy last quarter of 2001 with a holiday-rich quarter one of 2002, it is hardly surprising that we saw little softness in server sales of China," he said. ***AFP***

Solve the world's problems at One L

TWO Thai workers arrange TV sets at an electronic shop in Bangkok. The Thai Farmers Research Center said overall sales of television sets could hit 1.9 million this year, up 13 percent from last year, triggered by the World Cup tournament and the economic recovery. AFP

US Airways seeks $1.2B in savings

NEW YORK—US Airways called for $1.2 billion in wage cuts and other savings on Thursday and said it would apply for around $1 billion in government loan guarantees, as it became the second major US airline to seek federal aid since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The United States' sixth-largest air carrier admitted this week that it was losing a battle against the drastic drop in air travel that followed Sept. 11.

The airline hopes to maintain liquidity by securing government backing for its loans, but says it also may have to file for bankruptcy.

Arlington, Virginia-based US Airways, which lost more than $2.1 billion last year, asked its employees, suppliers and lenders to come up with about $1.2 billion in concessions annually to lighten its cost structure.

About $950 million of the plan's targeted cuts would come from labor, with a large chunk of those cuts possibly stemming from pensions, said Jerry Glass, US Airways' senior vice president of employee relations.

The airline also asked its unions to allow it to add another 150 regional jets, which service smaller markets with greater cost efficiency, to its recently expanded fleet.

But Thursday's release of the plan to employees merely lit the flame under a negotiation process that could take months and would involve both the airline's stakeholders and the government's Air Transportation Stabilization Board.

America West Airlines, the first major carrier to ask the government to guarantee its credit, received $380 million in federal aid to back a much-needed $429-million loan after revising its application several times.

Instead of simply granting the loan itself, the government has agreed under the ATSB's plan to reimburse lenders from the private sector if airlines default. *Reuters*

Japan's salarymen lash out at economic slump

TOKYO—Enraged, a middle-aged businessman suddenly swings his arm, startling fellow commuters on a crowded Tokyo train.

"Shut up!" he screams.

Although the red-faced man manages to deflect his anger onto a nearby pole, his explosive rage toward two harmlessly chatting young women is no longer a rarity in a country often envied for its peaceful, law-abiding public.

"Why do I have to be quiet?" one of the women retorted, "I'm a person too. Why should I listen to you?"

That is the very question confronting many middle-aged Japanese men who gave up their youth in loyal service to their companies and Japan's "economic miracle," only to be denied the comfortable pay and retirement they hoped to reap in later years.

Instead, they have been humiliated by a loss of respect and rising job insecurity.

After the inevitable few beers after work and before they reach home, where their families have often learned to live without husbands and fathers, the "oyaji"—"old man" in Japanese—are venting their stress on Japan's trains.

"It's because the economy is getting worse," said Michio Yamaguchi, a conductor for the East Japan Railway Co.

"The incidents have been increasing each year."

Party over

After nearly half a century of breakneck growth, the world's second richest country has been stuck in the economic doldrums for more than a decade, with unemployment stuck near record highs and companies rethinking their trademark guarantees of lifetime employment.

During the December party season in the past two years, JR East has hired guards to patrol platforms and trains to prevent inebriated oyaji from assaulting passengers and railway staff.

At each stop, blue-suited private guards hop off and stand at attention next to the carriage doors.

But if trouble starts, their main job is to alert railroad personnel and police, who often find themselves ferrying drunk and unconscious salarymen from platforms to safer areas.

Japan Railway says that more than a quarter of violent incidents at its stations are caused by men in their 50s, and headlines tell of salarymen battering younger train passengers, each other and being beaten in retaliation by young men.

Just over a year ago, a 43-year-old banker died after he was battered by a group of teenagers on a train platform.

Two of the youths, who were later arrested and charged, said the brawl started after they got into an argument.

Generation gap

In a separate incident, police arrested an unemployed businessman last year for assaulting a conductor and a passenger on Tokyo's main Yamanote train line. *Reuters*

IMF satisfied with Thai economic policy

BANGKOK—The International Monetary Fund strongly supports the Thai government's current economic policies, local reports Friday quoted Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak as saying.

An IMF team has been conducting talks with Thai government officials over the past week.

Somkid said the team was "quite satisfied" with current policy and supported the country's fiscal direction, economic reform programs and measures to improve industrial competitiveness, the Bangkok Post reported.

"(The IMF) was encouraging and knows that things are getting better," Somkid was quoted as saying.

Somkid said excise tax collections over the past seven months were considerably above target, and noted value added tax collection for April was 16 to 17 percent higher year-on-year, papers reported.

He declined to comment on reports the government was considering raising its gross domestic product growth forecasts to over 4 percent, saying more time was needed to establish trends, they added.

Somkid further declined to comment on a recent IMF complaint that Thailand had a crippling burden of bad debts, the Business Day said. *AFP*

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Yuan to remain stable

SINGAPORE—China's currency should remain stable in the next 12 to 18 months, with officials unlikely to consider suggestions by multilateral agencies to link the yuan to a basket of currencies, Standard Chartered Bank said Friday.

Expected changes in the country's top leadership within the next year should delay any discussions on the suggestion by the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank.

"The IMF and ADB suggested the yuan could be linked to a basket of currencies rather than the US dollar alone," Standard Chartered said in a report. *AFP*

AOL offers apology

NEW YORK—Angry shareholders took the floor at AOL Time Warner Inc.'s annual meeting on Thursday as management admitted that some of the company's plans had derailed during the year and pledged to make it up to investors.

The stock of the world's largest Internet and media company plunged about 70 percent from the time AOL agreed to buy Time Warner in January 2000, as many of the promised benefits from the $106.2-billion deal failed to materialize.

"While we began laying some of the groundwork, the fact of the matter is that the AOL business and our vision of a combined company got off track," said AOL chair Steve Case at the company's annual meeting at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York. *Reuters*

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Bargain Aspen Filinvest Alabang 3BR4TB 20Flr F'Furn View Laguna Bay P15.5M 3Prkg w/Helipad nr.Asian Hosp 8072573/2676 09178424646

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MKTI CONDO-STUDIO P900T CALL 0917-2559204 (JOAN)

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1 Bedroom Flurn AC Tel Cable
2 bedroom Unfurn AC Tel Prkg
ROXAS BLVD NEAR NAIA
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Roxas Blvd.
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Call Manny 895-3217

Own Condo Unit in Mla.
Only 10T 2 reserve. Nr. Ortigas, San Juan Mdluyong & QC w/ 1st class amenities. Open House today. Call 716-7039; 716-7044

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UNION SQ ONE FA60m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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SAN JUAN

Addin Hills Condo 102m² 2br Mds Rm Prkng P3.2M 726-1221/22 0917-8998767

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR W/TEL PARKING 8446392

2BRTB GRG nr8'dla 15T 8441669

YAGUE La Paz 895-5699

MANILA

Apt 6771828/ 6682108

CONDO w/2 BRM SEMI-FUR TEL # 5630401 5630393

MANDALUYONG

845 Samat St. Mandaluyong City • Tel. # 533-7709 to 12

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QUEZON CITY

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QUEZON CITY

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3BR 1MdDlr 2Cg 4TB w/terrace, patio 952-0616 912-0597 430-0327 0919-5987840 Ditas / Baby / Jun

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BR NEW MKT CONDO 2BR2TB w/prkg Assn dues incl. P22/mo. 0917-8103866

Mkt. 2BR P10.5 up Studio P8T up NoAssn FreePrkg/H2O 8979417

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TOWNACE A/T 240T 9267433

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* ACCOUNTING CLERK *

Qualifications:
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- BS in Accountancy for the Accounting Clerk
- Knowledge in computer an advantage
- New graduates may apply

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DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, 1101
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- Records of grades
- 2x2 or 1½ x 1½ ID picture

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L300 T7411366

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

YAMAHA 3/4 GRAND PIANO Model C6 &C7: L-new7213124

YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

HOME APPLIANCE

Sony29&34'Good-Import7113902

PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. IRENE CONTI EJE**, Import Supervisor of **Cargoaire Freight Forwarders, Inc.** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with the said company starting May 06, 2002. Any transaction entered into by her in behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI - May 18, 2002)

National Mapping & Resource Information Authority
COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY DEPARTMENT
421 Barraca St.,
San Nicolas, 1010 MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

This office invites all interested and bona fide parties to bid for **300,000 liters of Automotive Diesel Oil.**

For more details please call Capt James Mosquete or **Lt Shellon Cadaoas** at tel. (632) 2413494-98 loc. 119.

(Sgd.) **Cdr ROMEO I HO**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 18, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Pitbull Jeepline M-adult w/ adba application P8T 09196755153 / 2811981

PUG M 4mos SHWTYPE 8251840

SUPERWORM-HIPROTEIN FUD 4 LAPU' FINGRLNGS, AQ. FISH AROWANA, BIRD 4478631/33

SPORTING GOODS

22T Nu-Cmplt Imp 7767507 Sr

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ANY ROLEX
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B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284 09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7289887/4123543

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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
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MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

Hu Wishes Bnew Bike or KitAid 6QT? 0917-7369323

Store Sales 7312206

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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DRIVER Fam exp 8251840

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hi-pay Yaya Cook 4218262

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Pre-School/Grade 1 Teachers Quezon City resident preferred Please Call 411-2655

WANTED TWO SECRETARIES w/pleasing personality. Preferably Single, knowledgeable in Computer Correspondence & Bookeeping. Apply at PAMSCO Motorworks, 2466 Bobcock St. Bgy San Isidro, Makati City, 2:00-4:00pm, Monday & Tuesday, May 20 & 21, Tel# 843-9856 and 57

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5260722

ENGLISH TEACHER FOR GRADE SCHOOL
Born again Christian 20-35yrs. /single License holder •Call:892-5892/815-0981•

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MECH. DRAFTMAN W/KNOWLEDGE ON AUTOCAD AGE 21-30 CALL 8990432 TO 33

OFFICE STAFF 18-45 w/w/o exp Start Asap 9134470 MAYA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza Makati City will hold an auction sale on • MAY 25, 2002 • at 9:00AM including all items pawned up to December 2001 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Work Ir Home w/ Travel 8376068

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late FERDINAND P. AGONCILLO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc #200 Page #41 Book #71 Series of 2002 under Notary Public Atty. Juanito Dimaano of Marikina City
(PDI-May18,25&June1,2002)

NOTICE is given that the Estate of Spouses FELICISIMO ABARQUEZ and AMPARO ABARQUEZ was extrajudicially settled by their heirs by virtue of Doc. No. 7, Page No. 2, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty Virgilio C. Leynes.
(PDI-May 18, 25 & June 1, 2002)

Notice is given that the estate of the late ALBERTO S. VELOSO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc #457 Page #74 Book #1 Series 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Enrico Voltaire Almeda of City of Manila.
(PDI -May 11, 18 & 25, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day Your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be.

Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted.-JL

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 90, Quezon City

IN THE MATTER OF:

PETITION FOR CORPORATE REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS.

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-01-45604

RAMCAR, INC., ORIENTAL & MOTOLITE CORP., PHILIPPINE BATTERIES, INC., PLC CORP., RAMCAR PLASTICS CO., INC., PHILIPPINE RECYCLERS, INC., and RAMCAR TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Principal Petitioners,

-and-

AMALGAMATED BATTERY COMPONENTS, INC., C.C. UNSON CO., INC., LEELIN INDUSTRIAL CORP., SUPERTIRE, INC., SAGRADO PROPERTIES, INC., BULAC PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC., AGUS DEVELOPMENT CORP. and STA. MARIA INDUSTRIAL PARK CORP.
Affiliate Petitioners.

x---x

ORDER

The issue to be resolved by this Court is whether or not there is merit in the petition for corporate rehabilitation (with prayer for suspension of payments) in this case. (See Section 9, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation). On January 2, 2002, a Stay Order was issued by this Court.

After carefully evaluating the submissions of the parties in their respective pleadings in relation to the pertinent portions of the records and those made during the summary hearings, this Court finds and so holds that there is merit in the petition. Consequently, the petition in given due course. The petition for corporate rehabilitation and its annexes are referred to the Rehabilitation Receiver Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz. The Rehabilitation Receivers is ordered to evaluate the Rehabilitation Plan (Annex A, Petition) in connection with the concerns of various creditors which must be effectively addressed as much as possible and to submit his report containing his recommendation/s thereon to this Court not later than June 11, 2002.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, April 22, 2002.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

(PDI -- May 18, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
TRANSCO-SLT / GENCO-6

INVITATION TO AN INTERFACE MEETING WITH INTERESTED SUPPLIERS/CONTRACTORS

Re: Executive Order No. 262
Rules Governing the Procurement of Goods and Supplies by the National Government

Date: Monday - May 27, 2002
Time: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Venue: Max's Restaurant, Biñan, Laguna

Those interested to attend should register and pay a non-refundable amount of P200.00 (snacks and pamphlets) not later than Wednesday, **May 22, 2002** at NPC-GENCO 6 and TRANSCO-SLT.

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMAS**
Manager, Admin-SLT

(Sgd.) **R. J. MEDINA**
Manager, Admin-GENCO 6

(PDI - May 18, 2002)

U.S. EMBASSY PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines, communications equipment and vehicles on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the Main Disposal warehouse and the Old Commissary, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on May 20-22, 2002 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 NN and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi
Tel. No. 523-1001 extn. 2702

FIRST CLASS *Professional Human Resources, Inc.*
Tel. no. 02-5277956-59 loc 203/248
Direct Line: 02-309-0190

In cooperation with
SILICONWARE PRECISION INDUSTRIES CO. LTD (SPIL)
In TAIWAN, R.O.C
Accre# 67844
Urgently needs the following:

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With IC Experience in the following areas:

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With Experience in the following areas:

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- **Memory Test on ESI 9350/ESI 9820 LASER Repair Program**
- **Memory Test - Advantest related WAFER Sort Test Program**
  - Advantest related FINAL Test Program
- **Mix Signal Product Test**
- **Mix Signal Test on J750;HP9400;HP9300 TEST PROGRAM DEV'T.**

Final Employers Interview will be on May 22, 2002 at
5th Floor, JS Contractor Building
423 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila
E-Mail: jscon@csi.com.ph • Website: www.jscontractor.com.ph

BRING TWO SETS (photocopies) OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH THE ORIGINAL COPIES FOR VERIFICATION

1. Bio-data w/detailed job description
2. Employment Certtificate(s) / Co. I.D.
3. 6 pcs 2x2 B/W photographs
4. Diploma
5. Passport & NBI, if available
6. 3 pcs self address-stamp envelopes

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS • THIS AD IS ALLOWED UNDER MC2

DAR-ADB ARCP

Department of Agrarian Reform
Asian Development Bank
Agrarian Reform Communities Project
FAPsO Bldg., DAR Central Office,
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid

The AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT (ARCP), a special project of the DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), invites interested parties or individual consultants to pre-qualify and bid for the conduct of a **SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT STUDY** for the NED Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and other pre-qualification requirements can be obtained from the Project Evaluation Unit (PEU) of ARCP - Central Project Management Office at G/F DAR - Foreign Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid(s) as may be most advantageous (and is consistent with the bank's provision on hiring of consultants) to it. Moreover, ARCP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in preparation of the bids.

For further details, please call Mr. Jay Bertram T. Lacsamana or Ms. Susan Cruz at **455-9200** or **455-9227**.

The Chairman
National Prequalifications and
Awards Committee (NPEAC)
DAR-Foreign Assisted Projects Office

(PDI - May 18 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Rizal
Municipality of Rodriguez

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MANOLITO B. SAN JOSE has filed with this Office a petition for the Change of First Name from NOLY to MANOLITO in the birth certificate of NOLY B. SAN JOSE.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition to this Office not later May 22, 2002.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA C. ALVAREZ**
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - May 11 & 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of EL COSTA REALTY & DEV CORP with office address at 903-B West Tower, PSE Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Agricultural Producer of Milled Rice and By-Products at the following project locations and annual capacities.

Location	Capacities Milled Rice	 By-Products
a) Bayawan, Negros Oriental	216,000 bags	1,728 MT
b) Murcia, Negros Occidental	216,000 bags	1,728 MT
c) Tandag, Surigao del Sur	216,000 bags	1,728 MT
d) Claver, Surigao del Norte	216,000 bags	1,728 MT

has been officially accepted on May 16, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 16th day of May 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--May 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development - Region I
MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"
Batac, Ilocos Norte
Trunk line 077-792-3144; Fax line 077-792-3133
E-mail address: mmmh@laoag.net

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING & TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, thru the Bids & Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Hospital Medical Equipment
Drugs & Medicines Requirements;
Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory, X'ray & Dental Supplies

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1.	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	- May 8-15, 2002
2.	Submission of Duly accomplished eligibility documents	- May 22, 2002
3.	Posting of eligible suppliers	- May 24, 2002
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	- May 27-31, 2002
5.	Pre-bid conference	- June 5, 2002; 10:00 AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center
6.	Submission & opening of sealed bids for: - Medical Equipment	- June 26, 2002; AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center
	- Drugs and Medicines	- June 27, 2002; 9:30 AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center
	- Medical/Surgical Supplies; Laboratory, X'ray and Dental Supplies	- June 28, 2002; 9:30 AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P800.00) only.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason or waive any formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the Bids & Awards Committee, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES K. OTAYZA, MD., FPOGS., MHA.
Chief of Hospital III

"Smoking is Dangerous to your Health"

(PDI - May 8 & 18, 2002)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
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Trunklines 522-0000 & 551-2200 locals: 2374; 2308 & 7366

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **GSD Conference Room 25th Floor, LBP Plaza** not later than **May 31, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely **clustered top bids** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
	CHATTELS		
1.	One (1) unit 1999 "KIA" Besta Van 2.2; Plate No. WHE-603	LBP Warehouse, Bo. Mambugan, Antipolo City	160,000
2.	One (1) unit maroon 1996 "DAEWOO" Espero; Plate No. CNC-817	Basement, Century Tower Condominium #100 Tordesillas cor. H.V. dela Costa Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	110,000
3.	One (1) unit green 1998 "PROTON" Wira GLI 4 door, Plate No. WAU-603	LBP Warehouse, Bo. Mambugan, Antipolo City	80,000
	REAL ESTATE		
4.	Two (2) contiguous parcels of land with an aggregate area of 3,678 sq.ms.	Marcos Highway, Bo. Halang, Cainta, Rizal	68,895,000
5.	Two (2) contiguous parcels of land with an aggregate area of 2,286 sq.ms.	Cebu Business Park, Mindanao Ave., and Siquijor Road, Brgy. Mabolo, Cebu City	59,436,000
6.	20,400 sq.ms. parcel of land with perimeter fence and retaining wall	Rodriguez St. (formerly Montalban), Rizal	30,760,000
7.	736.40 sq.ms. parcel of land	West Avenue, Brgy. Bungad, Quezon City	25,583,500
8.	12,280 sq.ms. parcel of land	Mabini St., Bo. Burgos, Rodriguez, Rizal	22,513,000
9.	547 sq.ms. parcel of land with residential bldg.	Spinach Street, Valle Verde V, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City	16,881,000
10.	300 sq.ms. parcel of land with two-storey residential bldg.	#99 Imperial St., E. Rodriguez Sr., Cubao, Quezon City	6,872,700
11.	543 sq.ms. parcel of land with 3-storey residential building with attic	#34 Rocky Hill Road, Crystal Cave, Baguio City	4,751,629
12.	Two (2) contiguous parcels of lot with an aggregate area of 512 sq.ms. with two-storey residential bldg. & maid's quarter	Papaya St., Constantino Park Subd., Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan	4,021,000
13.	93.75 sq.ms. parcel of land with 3-storey residential bldg.	Roxas St., Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila	3,672,000
14.	Two (2) contiguous parcels of lot with an aggregate area of 1,122 sq.ms. with one-storey caretaker's quarter & perimeter fence	Papaya St., Constantino Park Subd., Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan	3,197,000
15.	658.50 sq.ms. parcel of land	Poblacion, Dasmariñas,Cavite	2,300,000
16.	300 sq.ms. parcel of land with one-storey residential bldg.	Talipapa, Caloocan City	2,150,000
17.	1,086 sq.ms. parcel of land	Greenfield Heights Subd., Bo. Bukal, Dasmariñas, Cavite	1,630,000
18.	238 sq.ms. parcel of residential lot with Pet Shop & Sari-sari Store Bldg.	Papaya cor. Mabolo Sts., Constantino Park Subd., Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan	1,267,000
19.	750 sq.ms. parcel of land with 425 sq.ms. warehouse	Callao, Alicia, Isabela	1,095,000
20.	46.61 sq.ms. bi-level residential condominium unit identified as Unit 203	2nd Flr. of PARC 15th Avenue, Condominium Bldg. 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City	932,000
21.	150 sq.ms. parcel of land	Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	480,000
22.	333 sq.ms. residential lot	Barrio Calit-calit, San Juan, Batangas	367,000

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Vice President, Special Assets Department (SPAD); Land Bank of the Philippines located at 25th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near of Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities/President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

Chairman
Committee on Assets Disposal

(PDI - May 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: 17 May 2002
Contract No.: SAPD/BCD/01

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received ODA Loans from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as JBIC, in the total amount of 17,471 million Yen toward the cost of the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project, Loan Agreement Nos. PH-P190 and PI-P219, signed on 10 September 1998 and 30 May 2001 respectively, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the 'Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans'. No party other than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to Loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communications, hereinafter referred to as "the Employer," intends to prequalify contractors for the following works under this project:

   The Work under this Contract comprises all Works associated with and incidental to the Development of the New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project located at Silay City, Negros Occidental.

   The full extent of the Works are described in the Drawings, Specifications and Bills of Quantities but generally comprises (i) Civil Works; (ii) Architectural/Structural Works; (iii) Electrical Works; (iv) Mechanical Works; (v) Air Navigation System; (vi) Aviation Fuel Supply System and (vii) Supply of Command Car for Rescue and Fire Fighting.
4. It is expected that Invitations to Bid will be made in September 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures and joint operations (herein after collectively referred to as "Joint Ventures") from all countries and areas, in accordance with the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.
6. Foreign contractor applicants should be licensed in their country/area and authenticated by their embassy/consulate in the Philippines. Local contractor applicants should be registered and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for "Airport Horizontal Structures, Airport Navigation Facilities and Airport Building" and holding PCAB "AAA" license. In case of a Joint Venture, each of the members must satisfy the registration and classification requirements in order to meet, jointly and severally, any and all obligations which the Joint Venture may incur.
7. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by presenting a Letter of Request and payment of the sum described in item (8) below from 03 June 2002 to 07 June 2002 (8:00 hours to 17:00 hours) at:

   The Project Director
   Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project
   DOTC - Project Management Office
   Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Metro Manila
   Telephone: +63 (2) 637-1187, Facsimile: +63 (2) 637-3061
8. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for Contract No. SADP/BCD/01, the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project. The documents are available upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 10,000 Pesos or US$200 at DOTC Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, the Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) will promptly dispatch the documents either by direct pick-up of the Applicant's representative or by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will DOTC be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
9. A minimum experience and financial requirements for qualification:
   (a) the firm responsible for the installation of (i) air navigation system and (ii) aviation fuel and supply system shall either be a Joint Venture Partner (in case of Joint Venture) or a Specialist Subcontractor designated/appointed by the Applicant.
   (b) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have an average annual turnover (defined as billing for work in progress and completed) as prime contractor over the last 5 years of US$ 100 million equivalent;
   (c) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects (at least one [1] project of which should be outside its home country) of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract for each of the following major project components within the last 10 years:

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Runway, Taxiway and/or Apron	US $ 9M
Airport Passenger Terminal Building, Control Tower and/or Operations Building	US $ 9M

   (d) the Joint Venture Partner or the Specialist Subcontractor who shall be responsible in providing the specialized inputs (i, e, air navigation systems and/or aviation fuel supply systems) shall individually have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract within the last 10 years: The minimum value of each project is specified below:

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS (Specialized Inputs)	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Air Navigation System	US $ 8.5M
Aviation Fuel Supply System	US $ 5.5M

   (e) the Applicant (Lead Partner in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least one (1) project of transportation civil works in an ASEAN country within the last 10 years. The minimum value of each project shall e US$ 10 million equivalent;
   (f) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) should have submitted a Bank Letter stating that such Bank considers to issue a specific credit line of at least US$ 20 million to meet the construction cash flow requirement for the Construction of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport, when and if the contract is awarded to the Applicant.
   (g) the Applicant (each Partner in case of JV) shall demonstrate, by submission of audited financial statement, positive ordinary profit for at least three (3) years out of the last five (5) years.
   (h) the Lead Partner (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall be a Contractor engaged in construction and/or civil works and shall meet not less than 40% of the qualifying criteria given under items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
   (i) Each of the other partners (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall meet individually not less than 25% of the qualifying criteria given in items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
10. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

    The Chairman
    Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee
    Selected Airport (Trunkline) Development Project
    Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building,
    Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
    not later than: 17:00 hours on 22 July 2002

    and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Contract No. SADP/BCD 01. the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project."
11. The Department of Transportation and Communications reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
12. Applicants will be advised, in due time, of the results of their applications. Only firms and Joint Ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid

(Sgd.) **ALAN ADENA TAN**
Assistant Secretary, and
SPBAC Chairman

(PDI--May 18, 21 & 31, 2002)

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORPORATION

S&L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines
P.O. Box EA-469, Ermita 1000, Manila
Tel. Nos. 525-9271 to 80, • Fax No. 525-8376

AN INVITATION FOR A STRATEGIC PARTNER

The **PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Company and engaged in the marine transport of domestic petroleum products in the country, invites interested parties to be its **Strategic Partner in a Joint Venture Business** in shipping.

Terms of reference and list of pre-qualification documents of prospective partner may be secured from the PSTC Office, 7th Floor, S&L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Lamberto C. Arenal at Telephone No. (632) 525-1292 and Fax No. (632) 524-8989 and (632) 525-8376.

The offer and/or Letter of Intent together with pre-qualification documents of prospective partner must be submitted to the above named company officer at PSTC Office at the aforementioned address not later than closing of office hour on **May 31, 2002**.

PSTC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all offers or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein or to accept such offer or part thereof which is considered most advantageous to the Company or to the government.

PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation

(PDI -- May 18 & 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No : 1396-PH(SF)
IFB No. : ICHSP-2002-003TE

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health (DoH) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP), and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.
2. The Department of Health desires to procure the Goods described the itemized in the Bid Document through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 21, 2002	
Deadline of Issuance of Bid Documents	July 9, 2002	
Pre-Bid Conference	June 14, 2002	10:00 AM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	July 10, 2002	10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	July 10, 2002	10:01 AM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), POP II Warehouse Bldg., San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

   Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 5,000.00) in cash. For foreign bidders, cost shall be ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00) plus mailing fee of FIFTY US DOLLAR (US$50.00) in the form of a bank draft issued separately to the DoH.

   A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the NEC Conference Room, Bldg. No. 9, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the instruction to Bidder's on or before deadline of submission of bids, and will be publicly opened at the above stated time and date at the NEC Conference Room, Bldg. No. 9, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
5. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DoH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health and
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI--May 18 & 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
PNPCS Canvass and Award Committee
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE COMPUTER SERVICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites all interested **PNP Accredited Suppliers/Manufacturers** to participate in the bidding of **1 (one) Lot Equipment in the Expansion of CPD Command and Control Facility** which consists of the following

a. Computer Hardware/Software
b. Communications Equipment
c. Network Equipment/Installation
d. Office Furnitures/Fixtures

The detailed specification of these products will be released during the Pre-bid Conference scheduled on **Wednesday, May 29, 2002** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Conference Room of the PNP Computer Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

For more details, please call up PCI Lampa at Tel. Nos. 721-8585 or 723-0401 loc. 4215/4315

(Sgd.) **PSSUPT CLAUDIO C CABREROS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 90, Quezon City

IN THE MATTER OF

PETITION FOR CORPORATE
REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER
FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS,

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-01-45804

RAMCAR PLASTICS CO., INC.,
PHILIPPINE RECYCLERS, INC.,
And RAMCAR TECHNOLOGY, INC.,
Principal Petitioners,

-and-

AMALGAMATED BATTERY
COMPONENTS, INC., C.C. UNSON
CO., INC., LEELIN INDUSTRIAL
CORP., SUPERTIRE, INC.,
SAGRADO PROPERTIES, INC.,
BULAC PROPERTY HOLDINGS,
INC., AGUS DEVELOPMENT
CORP., and STA. MARIA
INDUSTRIAL PARK CORP.,
Affiliate Petitioners.

x--------------------------------x

ORDER

Further to this court's Order dated April 22, 2002 finding merit in the petition for corporate rehabilitation in this case, the petitioners and their counsel and Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz (the rehabilitation Receiver) are ordered to cause the publication in its entirety of this Court's aforecited Order dated April 22, 2002 finding merit in the petition in the Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star, the Manila Standard, and other newspapers of general circulation in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao within seven (7) days from receipt or notice of this Order so that all interested parties and the public may be informed of the latest development in this case.

Moreover, the petitioners and the creditors are given seven (7) days from receipt or notice of this Order within which to file their written recommendation on the reasonable professional fees to be paid to the Rehabilitation Receiver. For the purpose of assisting this Court to arrive at such reasonable professional fees, the petitioners are also ordered to submit to this Court a report containing the total compensation package of the president and vice-presidents of the petitioners-corporations within the aforestated seven-day period.

And finally, and for clarity, the Rehabilitation Receiver is ordered to consider the concerns raised by various creditors on the securitization or intended securitization of MRT bonds in the report he will be submitting to this Court on or before June 11, 2002 on his evaluation of the rehabilitation plan and his recommendation thereon. The creditor LBP's Manifestation and Motion dated March 22, 2002 and the Urgent Motion of creditor BPI and the Manifestation and Motion of creditor UCPB are resolved in accordance with what is stated herein.

Serve copies of this Order and the Order of April 22, 2002 finding merit in the petition upon (1) the petitioners through Mr. Manuel Agustines and Mr. Roberto Garcia, (2) Atty. Amado Santiago, Jr., (3) Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz (the Rehabilitation Receiver), (4) the counsels of creditors and/or other interested parties at their respective addresses appearing in the records.

Additionally, Mr. Noel B. Mandap (the Process Server of this Court) is ordered to serve immediately by personal service copies of this Order and the Order of April 22, 2002 bearing merit in the petition upon (1) the petitioners through Mr. Manuel Agustines and Mr. Roberto Garcia, (2) Atty. Amado Santiago, Jr., and (3) Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz, at their respective addresses appearing in the records, and to submit his return forthwith with this Court.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, April 22, 2002.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

(PDI -- May 18, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant
Scope of Work	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services for the complete rehabilitation/improvement of existing sewage treatment plant to include but not limited to civil mechanical, electrical and architectural works all in accordance with the approved drawings, technical specifications, methodologies/facilities and equipment specifications of BSP. Work includes start-up and commissioning of the rehabilitated sewage plant.
Project Location	BSP - Security Plant Complex in East Avenue, Quezon City
Approved Budget	Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Two (P5,735,32.00)
Source of Funding	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
IAC Classification	IAC Category at least Medium (Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Disposal Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience	Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) construction / rehabilitation of sewage treatment plant projects one of which costs not less than Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (5,500,000.00). Must have performed testing, commissioning and operation of sewage treatment plant that passes the effluent quality standard of DENR Adm. Order No 35.
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't	Pesos Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Pesos (573,000.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms	
Cost of Forms	Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	May 10 to 27, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/Documents	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel. No 524-7011 loc. 3143) 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	May 31, 2002 10:00 AM
Notice of Prequalification/Prequalification	
Date and Time of Issuance	June 14, 2002/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance	Three Thousand Pesos per set (P3,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	June 17, 2002/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference	
Date and Time	June 20, 2002 10:00 AM
Venue	BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids	
Deadline/Venue of Submission	July 01, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor losses it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Marcos J. Siongco, Jr.
Chairman

(PDI--May 10, 18 & 24, 2002)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center invites interested suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery at Philippine Carabao Center National Gene Pool and Headquarters, Water Buffalo and Beef Cattle Improvement Project (WBBCIP) CLSU Cpd., Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija described as follows:

1 Unit of Tractor with Canopy, 90hp, 4WD

Prequalification requirements can be secured from Engr. Eduardo P. Dalusong, Procurement Section, Philippine Carabao Center National Genepool and Headquarters, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija and Mr. Rogel M. Dela Cuesta, Philippine Carabao Center Manila Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Bldg., NIA Cpd., EDSA, Quezon City starting on **May 27, 2002**. Last day of submission of prequalification documents will be on **May 31, 2002**.

Clarifications and other inquiries may be addressed during the pre-bidding conference on **June 7, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at Philippine Carabao Center Manila Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Bldg., NIA Cpd., EDSA, Quezon City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the Office of the Executive Director not later than **June 14, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at the same address.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - May 18 & 20 2002)

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"There is no such thing as death. There are only the living, on earth and beyond. Death is nothing but a moment, a second, a step; the step from temporary to permanent, from temporal to eternal."

Our Beloved Tatay

Eduardo Limosa Espino Sr.

of San Pedro, Laguna, Plaridel, Bulacan and Lucena City

Died - 15th day of May 2002 at the age of 71.

His loving wife Lourdes P. Espino; his children and in-laws **Dr. Louie R. Espino & Dra. Lucy Marie E. Espino** and their children **Mihkael Louis James E. Espino** and **Raphael Louis James E. Espino**; **Mr. Eduardo R. Espino Jr. & Cielo L. Espino** and their children **Erroll Joshua L. Espino** and **Alyssa Katherine L. Espino.**

His remains lie in state at his residence in 86 Luna Street, San Pedro, Laguna. Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the San Pedro Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at San Pedro Apostol Parish Church, San Pedro, Laguna.

TE AMAREMOS ETERNAMENTE

EN MEMORIA DEL PRIMER ANIVERSARIO DE LA MUERTE DEL

SR. DON JOAQUIN M. CARRIÓN, SR.

(3 de Febrero 1913 – 18 de Mayo 2001)

Te recuerdan cariñosamente, tu esposa, hijos, hijas, nietos, nietas, u demas familiares y ruegan al Señor por tu eterno descanso.

Misas y rezos seran celebradas en las siguientes iglesias:

1.	Santuario de San Antonio Parish *McKinley Road, Makati City*	7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
2.	St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *Bel-Air, Makati City*	6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
3.	St. John Bosco *Pasong Tamo, Makati City*	6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
4.	St. Alphonsus, Mary de Ligori *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	6:15 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
5.	St. Joseph the Worker *Palanan, Makati City*	6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
6.	National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *Dao, Makati City*	6:30 a.m., 7:00 a.m. 12:15 noon
7.	Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	7:15 a.m.
8.	Mary the Queen Parish *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 p.m.
9.	San Agustin Church *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
10.	Our lady of Beautiful Love *Merville Village, Paranaque*	6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
11.	Holy Eucharist Parish *Moonwalk, Parañaque*	6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
12.	St. James the Great Basilica *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*	6:20 a.m.
13.	St. Jerome Parish Church *Alabang, Muntinlupa City*	6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
14.	Parish of the Resurrection Church *BF Homes, Parañaque City*	6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
15.	National Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help *Redemptorist Road, Baclaran*	6:45 a.m.
16.	Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz *Binondo, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
17.	Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
18.	Our Lady of Fatima *Binakayan, Cavite*	7:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
19.	Carmelite Monastery *Naga City*	6:30 a.m.

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The family of the late

EMMA CATRAL STA. ANA

who passed away on May 16, 2002 at the age of 62,

wishes to inform relatives and friends that her remains lie in state at Xavierville Subdivision, Phase I Chapel, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will follow on Sunday, May 19, 2002 after the 2:00 PM Chapel Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

The family of the late

ATILANO R. PIONG

who passed away on May 16, 2002 at the age of 79.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 9, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 19, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 PM Holy Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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In Memory of a Loving
Mother and Grandmother

LEONILA VALDEZ VDA. DE ARGUELLES

December 10, 1910 - May 16, 2002

Has peacefully joined her Creator.

Her husband **Ramon F. Arguelles** (†); children **Evelyn & Narding** (†) **Bautista**, **Reynaldo** and **Mely Arguelles**, **Medy** and **Johnny Martinez**, **Cora** (†) and **Roger Nogales**; siblings **Josefa** (†), **Celso** (†), **Pepita** (†), **Arsenia** (†), **Purificacion**; her nephews and nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Martin de Porres Chapel, United Hills Village, Parañaque City. She will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park on Sunday, May 19, 2002 after the 2:00 PM Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

A big problem even in developing countries

By Tessa R. Salazar

FOR THE PAST 10 years, cardiovascular diseases have been the top causes of death in the country, and doctors think this is not going to change in the near future unless society does something drastic.

The Philippines, being a developing country, is in epidemiologic transition. The people's health problems revolve around infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, diarrhea and pneumonia. Figures show these types of diseases top the cause of morbidity (illnesses).

But a look at mortality data would reveal that the one main cause of deaths in the country is heart disease—a disease that belongs to affluent countries, according to Philippine Heart Association president Dr. Edgardo E. Ortiz.

"We are a developing country yet we have the same health problems that developed countries have. It is an urgent situation," Ortiz said.

He said the urgency of this health problem has prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, to declare 2002 as the Year of the Heart. This also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the PHA. And since heart disease isn't something society could address in a year, 2002 to 2012 was declared the decade of cardiology.

Affluent lifestyle

Several factors are being blamed for heart disease, including a sedentary lifestyle, affluent diet, rapid urbanization and stress.

Instead of walking short distances, people now use their vehicles. People spend too much time in the comfort of their homes, watching TV endlessly. And if they are at work, they are usually stuck to their computer chairs. Mobility has been significantly reduced.

Dayrit said seven out of 10 leading causes of death are noncommunicable diseases attributable to an unhealthy lifestyle that includes lack of physical activity, unhealthy diet and smoking. Fifty percent of the population, he said, was sedentary.

Ortiz noted that economic prosperity has spawned the growth of fast-food restaurants and round-the-clock convenience stores that provide unlimited access to junk food.

Compounding the problem is urban migration. People migrating to the cities are adopting stressful lifestyles.

Smoking is also a risk factor. Tobacco smoke contains more than 4,000 hazardous chemicals, including carbon monoxide, which affects the cardiovascular system.

"One of the most alarming trends that we see right now is that many women and children smoke. They are the targets of the tobacco industry," said Ortiz.

Heart problems

PHA doctors describe the heart as a fist-sized powerhouse that continuously pumps five to six quarts of nutrient- and oxygen-rich blood per minute throughout the body to sustain life. When a disorder occurs within this system, a heart attack occurs.

Coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, hypertension, stroke or brain attack and atherosclerosis (thickening of the walls of the arteries) are cardiovascular-related diseases.

Ortiz said diabetes mellitus is now part of the so-called metabolic syndrome because blood vessels are affected.

Cardiovascular-related diseases pose significant risk factors that can lead to heart attack.

The most common ailment nowadays, says PHA director Dr. Mariano Lopez, is hypertension, which damages both the heart and kidneys.

Candidates for hypertension are those who are more than 10 percent over their ideal body weight, those who regularly eat salty, fried or greasy food and have more than two alcoholic drinks a day, and those who are constantly under a lot of stress and have a sedentary lifestyle.

Cholesterol abnormality is another risk factor. The intake of foods rich in cholesterol is a common cause of abnormal levels of cholesterol. Other causes could be heredity as well as aging.

Family affair

Dr. Gregorio Patacsil, president of the Philippine Society for Hypertension, said the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and hypertension goes beyond controlling blood pressure. Weight control, quitting smoking and lifestyle modification are essential to address such diseases.

Patacsil said a patient's heart would take 2.5 to four years to become healthy again following a change in lifestyle. Blood pressure can normalize six months after drug therapy.

But patients tend to go back to their previous habits after treatment. It is thus essential to involve the entire family in the treatment so that the patient gets enough motivation and family support.

Treatment, said Patacsil, should also start early.

High blood pressure: a 'thief in the night'

IF you can afford a cell phone, why not a blood pressure monitor?

Having your blood pressure checked is one way to nip hypertension in the bud. And having your own BP monitor will enable you to check your blood pressure at home or wherever you go.

Hypertension can come like a thief in the night. According to Dr. Gregorio Patacsil Jr., past president of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), hypertensives can experience no symptoms whatsoever.

Blood pressure

Dr. Mariano Lopez, PHA director, explains that blood pressure is the force created as the heart pumps blood and moves it through the blood vessels. High blood pressure exhausts the heart, distressing its arteries every time it pumps blood harder.

Lopez advises: "If you want to live long, invest in yourself and your body. A healthy lifestyle means eating the right kinds of food. Have a less-sodium and fat-trimmed diet. Avoid smoking and drinking."

Anyone can have hypertension, although some people are more prone to developing it. Men aged 45 years or over, or women aged 55 years or above, and have a close relative that has high blood pressure, heart disease or stroke must put their diet and lifestyle on a tight watch.

Lifestyle modification

You need to modify your lifestyle if you smoke, are more than 10 percent overweight, regularly eat salty, fried and greasy food, have more than two alcoholic drinks a day (two bottles of beer or two shots of whiskey), are addicted to caffeine-laden drinks, are constantly under a lot of stress and have a sedentary lifestyle.

Better see your doctor regularly if your cholesterol level is over 200 mg percent, have diabetes or a blood sugar level of over 126 mg percent, have heart disease, have had a stroke, have a kidney disease or have protein in your urine.

Cholesterol control the natural way

CHOLESTEROL has been getting a bad name—accused as the cause of body disorders and tagged as the culprit behind some of today's killer and dreaded diseases.

These charges are not entirely baseless. A high concentration of cholesterol hardens the arteries that carry blood and oxygen to the heart, causing a potentially fatal ailment called arteriosclerosis.

But cholesterol is indispensable to the human anatomy and empowers the body to function well.

So what gives?

Health experts say the real killer is not cholesterol per se but the sedentary lifestyle of people today.

In its latest survey, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute revealed that four out of 10 Filipino adults have high cholesterol levels.

Hypercholesterolemia, or the presence of excess cholesterol in the blood, peaks at the age of 40, when adults are at the prime of their productivity.

Reducing cholesterol levels

Physicians have identified a possible match to cholesterol—a group of drugs called statins, which lower blood cholesterol by inhibiting the function of an enzyme responsible for the buildup of cholesterol in liver cells.

Statins were found most potent, yet safe, at 20-40 mg doses. A higher or lower dose was found to cause liver damage and myopia.

Studies show statins perform more wonders when taken with a nutritional supplement called squalene, a health supplement naturally derived from the liver of deep-sea dogfish.

A study by Dr. Brian Tomlinson, head of clinical research of the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong, showed that the complementary effect of natural squalene with statins significantly reduced the total cholesterol and bad cholesterol levels, while increasing the good cholesterol level. It also showed that while both statins and squalene can lower cholesterol levels, a complementation of the two produced more dramatic results.

Tomlinson said squalene is most effective in people with mild elevation of cholesterol who can still prevent their condition from worsening.

Not a drug

Joey Bonifacio, president of Issho Genki Corp. which distributes squalene in the Philippines, said squalene is a nutritional supplement, not a drug. As such, there is a lack of standardized measure of quantity for squalene, and many of the products labeled as squalene are fish oils that contain squalene but are not the pure and concentrated ones extracted from fish oils.

Issho Genki's Squalene iP6 is standardized, tested and accepted by leading hospitals and medical institutions, Bonifacio said. It has been certified as pure and natural by the Japan Food Research Laboratories and the University of Toronto's Institute of Medical Science.

The case of the resuscitated 'Kapitan'

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

KAPITAN Inggo is the barangay captain of one of the model barangays in Manila. He is well loved by his constituents because of the sincere and devoted service he renders to anyone who may be in need.

Two years ago, he organized a workshop on basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in his barangay. Little did Ka Inggo realize that he would be the first beneficiary of this project.

It was one of the usual busy weekends for the indefatigable barangay captain. He had just helped a family in his barangay relocate to another street.

He was not feeling well, so he decided to go home to rest. He took an over-the-counter painkiller for what he thought was just muscle pain. He went up to his room to take a nap, but the chest pains got worse.

He was sweating all over. His vision started to dim. He wanted to stand up and shout for help, but he was already too weak. He felt faint and passed out.

By a fortunate twist of fate, Ka Inggo's married son, who lived just a block away, decided to pass by his father's house on the way home from work. Initially, the son panicked when he saw Ka Inggo's almost lifeless body sprawled on the bed. He felt for his pulse, but couldn't detect any.

Instituting CPR

Composing himself, he tried to recall the CPR lessons he learned. He removed Ka Inggo's dentures and made sure there was no obstruction in the airway. He pumped his father's chest and breathed some air into him every now and then, one breath for every seven chest compressions.

After about five minutes of CPR, Ka Inggo was still unconscious but he showed some movements with his hands. He was groaning, too. A carotid pulse was also noted.

Ka Inggo was rushed to the nearby Manila Doctors' Hospital, and just as he was transferred from the stretcher to the bed at the emergency room, he went into ventricular fibrillation, a fatal irregularity of the heartbeat. The ER staff instituted CPR again, inserting a tube into his trachea, or windpipe. Cardiac massage was done and medications were given through the intravenous line.

Ka Inggo's children waited outside the ER. They were prepared for the worst. After a tense half-hour, the ER physician called for them.

"By God's grace, we got him back. His vital signs are stable now, but he's still in critical condition," the doctor informed them.

Turning to Ka Inggo's son, he added, "You did a great job sustaining your father's life until he got here. Were it not for your prompt CPR, he would most likely be beyond help at this point."

Ka Inggo's family prayed incessantly that night. And almost like a miracle, he regained consciousness the following day. He recovered dramatically and the rest of the hospital stay was unremarkable. He went home in less than two weeks.

'Golden period' for CPR

Dr. Clarissa Mendoza, current chair of the CPR Council of the Philippine Heart Association, says many people who have a heart attack go into a cardio-respiratory arrest before they reach the hospital. If those who witness the arrest do not institute CPR promptly, it might be too late already when the patient reaches the hospital.

The so-called golden period—when the brain and other vital organs are not irreversibly damaged yet—when successful CPR may be done following an arrest lasts only a few minutes. Beyond this, the heartbeat may be restored, but serious damage on the brain already develops. The patient may remain comatose permanently.

The CPR Council is one of the most active councils of the PHA, conducting free workshops on basic CPR nationwide. They use a special hi-tech mannequin called "Resusci-Ann," which allows the participant to learn CPR hands-on, as if they're doing it on an actual patient. The PHA also has a locally designed mannequin, which they call "Resusci-Juan."

Self-CPR?

A so-called "cough CPR" or "self-CPR" is being passed around by e-mail like a chain letter. It is attributed to the Johnson City Medical Center in the United States.

The e-mail advises heart attack victims to cough repeatedly and vigorously as one does to cough out phlegm from deep inside the chest. This should be done every two seconds preceded by a deep breath. This is believed to "squeeze" the heart and keep the blood circulating.

I appreciate the sincere intentions of those who "discovered" this technique and the thousands, probably millions, propagating it through the Net. Offhand though, it doesn't seem logical since a patient who needs CPR would certainly not be in a position anymore to cough.

And it can even do more harm in some cases. Coughing triggers what we call a Valsalva reflex, similar to what happens when one holds his breath and strains. This is beneficial if the patient has a fast heart rate, but if the patient's rate is already on the slow side, especially if a heart block is present, coughing may even precipitate an arrest.

No solid evidence

Cough CPR is still controversial and is not backed up by solid scientific evidence.

According to the American Heart Association, it may be possible for a conscious victim to cough forcefully and maintain sufficient blood flow to the brain to remain conscious for a few seconds until the arrhythmia disappears or is treated. Blood flow is maintained by an increase in chest pressure that occurs during forceful coughs. The phenomenon has been mislabeled "cough CPR" although it is not a form of traditional resuscitation.

This technique of coughing to maintain blood flow during brief periods of arrhythmias has been found to be useful in the hospital, particularly during cardiac catheterization, an X-ray diagnostic procedure to evaluate the heart and its blood vessels. The victim's ECG is monitored continuously and a physician is present.

During cardiac catheterization, patients may develop sudden arrhythmias and a physician or nurse may instruct the patient to cough.

Therefore, the usefulness of "cough CPR" is generally limited to the monitored patient with witnessed arrest in the in-hospital setting.

Signs of heart attack

As a training organization, the American Red Cross encourages the public to recognize the signs of a heart attack:

- Persistent chest pain or discomfort that is not relieved by resting, changing position, or oral medication.
- Breathing difficulty, which may cause dizziness.
- Changes in pulse rate.
- Skin appearance, which may be pale or bluish in color. The face may be moist or may sweat profusely.

To care for a heart attack victim:

- It is important to recognize the signals of a heart attack.
- Convince the victim to stop activity and rest.
- Help the victim to rest comfortably.
- Call for an ambulance or the local emergency number for help.
- Assist with medication, if prescribed.
- Monitor breathing and pulse.
- Be prepared to give conventional CPR if the victim's heart stops beating.

(For information on free CPR courses, call up Dr. Clarissa Mendoza or Delia Villar at 634-7440.)

Heart doctors celebrate golden year

AT LEAST 900 cardiologists are expected to attend the 33rd annual convention and scientific meeting of the Philippine Heart Association at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on May 22-25.

The event coincides with the 50th founding anniversary of the PHA. The theme is "50 years of continuing commitment toward cardio-vascular excellence and health."

On May 21, the President's Cup golf tournament will kick off at the Valley Golf Country Club. A painting exhibit, "Expressions of the Heart," by cardiologists will open at the hotel's mezzanine that night.

Bishop Joel Baylon of the Diocese of Masbate will open the May 22 session with a Mass at 10 a.m. The keynote address by Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit, founding member and PHA past president, follows.

The PHA 50th anniversary book will also be launched that day, followed by the opening of the exhibit of the PHA memorabilia.

Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, outgoing PHA president, will lead members during the fellowship night.

The anniversary gala night takes place on May 23.

A "Fun Run" dashes off at 5:30 a.m. on May 25. Closing ceremonies will include the induction of the new board of directors headed by Dr. Annette Borromeo, incoming president.

Plenary sessions will be held in between social events.

PHA 2002
33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 22-25, 2002
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

MESSAGES

My warmest felicitations to the Philippine Heart Association on its 33rd Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting and 50th Anniversary.

I commend you for your commitment to improve the medical profession in the country. The theme: "50 Years of Continuing Commitment Towards Cardiovascular Excellence", Manifests your determination to promote professional excellence. I wish you greater success as you strive for quality healthcare and work hard to achieve worthy goals.

Our bid to uplift the lives of our people requires the improvement of the coverage of our health services. I count on your support to make medical services more accessible to all, especially the marginalized sectors of our society. Let us continue our work in healing and rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress, and prosperity.

MABUHAY!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

It is with pride and pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association on the occasion of their 50th Founding Anniversary and 33rd Annual Convention.

Your association has always been one of our staunchest allies in the campaign against the onslaught of cardiovascular and other degenerative diseases which, at present continue to debilitate and claim the lives of more and more Filipinos afflicted with these lifestyle-related diseases.

The Department of Health has strongly endorsed the formal proclamation of the year 2002 as National Year of the Heart and the period from 2002 to 2012 as the National Decade of Cardiology by no less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo through Proclamation No. 137, in recognition of the need to create greater public awareness regarding the prevention and control of cardiovascular illnesses as well as to highlight the need for various healthcare providers and institutions to assure the quality of cardiovascular care in our country.

Your theme, "50 Years of Continuing Commitment Towards Cardiovascular Excellence and Health", embodies your association's unwavering efforts to achieve our collective goal of improving our people's cardiovascular fitness as we strongly advocate for the promotion of healthy lifestyles, an approach which may well serve as our personal safeguard against the potentially fatal or catastrophic consequences of heart and other related diseases.

As you begin to turn the pages of the next fifty years in your organization's history, I enjoin everyone to take on the many challenges that the new millennium likewise brings. The various members of the health sector should band together to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the burden of cardiovascular illness on our people, as we move this country towards better health, increased productivity and sustainable development.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!!

Manuel M. Dayrit, M.D., M. Sc.
Secretary of Health

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we heartily greet the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association, Inc., on the occasion of its 33rd Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting.

The PMA is most glad to join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this auspicious event, which celebrates likewise the golden anniversary of your Association. We find your theme, "50 Years of Continuing Commitment towards Cardiovascular Excellence and Health", most apt, as it mirrors the strides the Association has taken in pursuing your mission and vision of delivering excellent cardiovascular healthcare. We commend you for your efforts in intensifying your research programs, and for updating knowledge through the continuous medical education of your members. With great optimism, we hail your concern in bringing cardiovascular healthcare to remote areas and in raising public awareness of various heart ailments and their risks. This double celebration of the PHA will surely be another milestone in its history.

Thank you PHA for keeping in step with us in bringing cardiologists to the vanguard of health threats and for giving substance to the PMA theme, "Doctors at the Forefront - A Challenge for Change".

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Heart Association, Inc.

Gil C. Fernandez, M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

On behalf of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP), I am highly pleased to wish the Philippine Heart Association well as it celebrates its first half-century.

To have survived 50 years is, undoubtedly, a feat. But mere survival is not what matters most rather, it is the Associations commitment to the survival of others lives that makes this occasion truly meaningful. This occasion is truly a momentous event as you continue to aspire for excellence in the management of cardiovascular disease.

I urge your Board of Regents and your membership to carry on the high purpose for which the Association was founded and to stand for integrity and professionalism among our fellow practitioners.

Congratulations and Mabuhay on your 50th Anniversary.

Antonio H. Villalon, M.D., FPCP
President
Philippine College of Physicians

2002 is a most significant year for the Philippine Heart Association. It heralds our 50th year as an organization – an organization born with a simple but noble aim of introducing and propagating cardiology as a specialty. Guided by the idealistic and pioneering spirit of our founders; nurtured by the caring and steadfast hands of our past presidents and actively supported by our members, it has grown to a 900 strong organization admired and respected locally and recognized internationally.

2002 also marks our 33 years of bringing current issues and controversies in cardiology and state of the art technology to our members and colleagues in the profession to highlight our Association's commitment to continuing medical education, training and research.

Both events will also serve as fitting activities to the Presidential Proclamation 137 declaring this year as the "National Year of the Heart" and 2002-2012 as "Decade of Cardiology" to bring to the forefront our unwavering determination to control the ravages being exacted to our people by cardiovascular diseases.

The Organizing Committees of the 50th Anniversary Celebration and the 33rd Annual Convention have worked very hard to make sure that our meeting will be academically stimulating, wholesome and memorable for everyone.

We extend our warmest welcome to this jubilee celebration to our members, guests and participants.

Mabuhay tayong lahat !

Edgardo E. Ortiz, M.D.
President
Philippine Heart Association

Romeo J. Santos, M.D.
Secretary, Philippine Heart Association
Overall Convention Chairman, PHA 33rd Annual Convention

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Heart Association, the Scientific Committee of the 33rd Annual Convention pays tribute to the Filipino cardiologists whose contributions have raised Cardiology in the Philippines to the levels of international standards. We have lined up the pillars of Philippine Cardiology to give lectures on subjects that they have made themselves well known of. We have also invited internationally renowned cardiologists to give us a global perspective on the impending pandemic of cardiovascular diseases and of the international efforts to address the scourge of the new millennium.

Norbert Lingling D. Uy, M.D.
Treasurer, Philippine Heart Association
Scientific Committee Chairman, PHA 32nd Annual Convention

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APCC Officers – back cover
World Heart Federation – back cover
Organizing Committee – Cover page
Editorial Box- page 2
Welcome Message – APSC President – cover
Summary of Peripheral Vascular Meeting and Nuclear Cardiology Meeting – page

APCC COMES HOME TO MANILA

After 45 years from its inception, the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology and the Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology come home to its birthplace, Manila. Officially organized on April 18, 1956, it was spearheaded by the Philippine Heart Association, under the aegis of Dr. Antonio Samia and had as its Guest of Honor, Prof. Paul Dudley White, who was then President of the International Society of Cardiology.

The First Asian Pacific Congress, then known as the First Congress of Cardiology in Asia and Oceania, was held on the same year with delegates from Australia (Dr. J. Kempson Maddox), India (Dr. S. Padmavati), Iran (Dr. Gholan Reza Sheikh), Japan (Dr. Magojiro Maekawa), Pakistan (Dr. Roeinton Khambatta), and the Philippines (Drs. Salvador Busuego, Antonio Samia, Saturnino Ador Dionisio, Emmanuel Gatchalian). China, Indonesia, and West Germany sent observers to the event.

Since then, the Congress has fostered closer communication among the different cardiology communities in the region. It has bloomed into a sophisticated meeting which provides an exciting blend of scientific discussion, technology updates, cultural insights, and personal networking. Being the first meeting of the millennium, the Organizing Committee takes pride in presenting more than 150 clinical papers from investigators from the region. Plenary sessions feature groundbreaking research, ranging from topics as esoteric as Human Genomics to issues as universal as hypertension and atherosclerosis.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and the Philippine Heart Association, we welcome you all to Manila!-

DAY 1 N MAY 22, 2002 N WEDNESDAY

07:30 am REGISTRATION
08:00 am Highlights of 50th Anniversary Celebration
10:00 am PHA Thanksgiving Mass
11:00 am Bishop Joel Z. Baylon

12:00nn LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
02:00 pm Isla 1 Novartis
Isla 2 Therapharma
Isla 3 Sanofi Synthelabo
03:30 pm Isla Convocation and Opening Ceremonies
04:30 pm Mactan Launching of the PHA 50th Anniversary Book
05:00 pm Lower Opening of Exhibits
05:30 pm Lobby
05:30 pm Lower Opening of the PHA 50th Anniversary Memorabilia
06:00 pm Lobby Foyer
07:00 pm Isla Fellowship Night

Day 2 n May 23, 2002 n Thursday

07:30 am Isla 3 MEET THE EXPERT
09:00 am 1 Pre-operative Evaluation of Cardiac Patients for Non-cardiac Surgery
Speaker: Agripino D. Reloza, MD
Chair: Noe A. Bablonia, MD
Co-Chair: Wilfred Dee, MD
Panelists: Efren R. Vicaldo, MD
Ma. Belen O. Carisma,
MD Adelina S. Lim, MD
Isla 2 PLENARY SESSIONS I & II
HB Calleja Professorial Lecture
Chair: Francisco G. Dizon, MD
Co-chair: Cesar S. Recto, II, MD
09:00 am 2-A State of Interventional Cardiology in the Philippines:
09:30 am What Can we offer?
Speaker: Bun Yok O. Dy, MD
09:30 am 2-B The Autology and Management Experimentally of
10:00 am Cardiac Hypertrophy
Speaker: Trefor Morgan, MD

10:00 am 2-C Pediatric Cardiology In The Next 50 Years: Future
10:30 am Challenges and Directions
Speaker: Asuncion A. Reloza, MD

10:30 am POSTER SESSION / VISIT EXHIBITS / COFFEE BREAK
11:00 am Isla 1 3 Oral Free Paper Presentations (1, 2, 3)
12:00 nn Isla 2 Moderators:
Isla 3 1. Renato R. Pacis, MD &
Felix Eduardo R.
Punzalan, Jr., MD
2. Norbert Lingling D. Uy, MD &
Gerardo S. Manzo, MD
3. Concepcion Uy-Santos, MD &
Adelaida Iboleon-Dy, MD

12:00 nn LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
02:00 pm Isla 1 Servier
Isla 2 Pfizer
Isla 3 MSD
12:00 nn Mactan RF-RHD Annual Membership Meeting
Isla 1 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA I - A
Chair: Adriano G. de la Paz, MD
Co-chair: Reynaldo P. Fajardo, MD
02:00 pm 4-A Recent Advancements in the Management of Heart Failure
Speaker: Romeo A. Divinagracia, MD
02:30 pm 4-B Endocrine Heart – Its Diagnostic and Therapeutic
03:00 pm Implications In Heart Failure
Speaker: Homobono B. Calleja, MD

Isla 3 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA I - B
Chair: Santiago V. Guzman, MD
Co-chair: Bernard S. Chiew, MD
02:00 pm 4-C Current Concepts In Dyslipidemia
02:30 pm Speaker: Rody G. Sy, MD
02:30 pm 4-D Endothelial Function In CAD
03:00 pm Speaker: Jose A. Yulde, MD

03:00 pm POSTER / VISIT EXHIBITS / COFFEE BREAK
03:30 pm
Isla 1 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA II - A
Chair: Emmanuel T. Gatchalian, Sr., MD
Co-chair: May D. Tan, MD
03:30 pm 5-A Control of Hypertension: Why Don't we do Better?
04:00 pm Speaker: Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr., MD
04:00 pm 5-B Barriers and Dilemmas In Hypertension Treatment
04:30 pm Speaker: Rafael R. Castillo, MD

Isla 3 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA II - B
Chair: Conrado S. Dayrit, MD
Co-chair: Santos Jose G. Abad, MD
03:30 pm 5-C The Unstable Plaque, Detection, Evaluation and
04:00 pm Treatment
Speaker: Rodolfo C. Soto, MD
04:00 pm 5-D CAD – The Philippines Experience
04:30 pm Speaker: Raul D. Jara, MD

07:00 pm Isla GALA NIGHT

Day 3 n May 24, 2002 n Friday

07:30 am BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM
09:00 am Isla 3 Bole Takeda
Isla 1 Gen Asia

Isla 2 PLENARY SESSIONS III & IV
Chair: Clemente C. Gatmaitan, Jr., MD
Co-chair: Annette P. Borromeo, MD
09:00 am Rodolfo C. Soto Professorial Lecture
09:45 am 6-A The Present Challenges And The Future of Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery for the Filipinos in America who are age 60 and Older
Speaker: Alexander G. Yap, MD

09:45 am 6-B Management of Acute MI
10:30 am Speaker: Gary Gordon, MD (USA)
10:30 am POSTER / VISIT EXHIBITS / COFFEE BREAK
11:00 am SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS I & II
12:00 nn Isla 1 7 PHA Servier Research Award
Isla 2 8 Young Investigators' Award

12:00 pm LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
02:00 pm Isla 1 GSK
Isla 2 Pfizer
Isla 3 AstraZeneca

02:00 pm Isla 1 BUSINESS MEETING
04:00 pm POSTER / VISIT EXHIBITS / COFFEE BREAK
05:00 pm DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
07:00 pm Isla 1 Corbridge
Isla 2 Aventis
Isla 3 Merck

07:00 pm Mactan 1 PRESIDENTS' NIGHT

Day 4 n May 25, 2002 n Saturday

07:30 am Isla 3 MEET THE EXPERT
09:00 am Chair: Mariano B. Lopez, MD
Co-Chair: Eugene Reyes, MD
9 Youth Smoking Prevention Program - What is it to the PHA?
Speaker: Daniel Tan, MD

Isla 2 PLENARY SESSION V & VI
Chair: Ernesto P. Namin, MD
Co-chair: Edgardo E. Ortiz, MD
09:00 am 10 The Need for Global Consensus on CVD Prevention:
09:45 am Role of the World Heart Federation
Speaker: Mario FC Maranhao, MD

09:45 am 11 Ramiro M. De Guia Memorial Lecture
10:30 am Cycle - Length Dependent Electrophysiologic Properties & Their Clinical Relevance
Speaker: William T. Chua, MD

10:30 am POSTER / VISIT EXHIBITS / COFFEE BREAK
11:00 am
Isla 1 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA III - A
Chair: Eleanor A. Lopez, MD
Co-chair: Manuel Ignatius E. Edmilao, MD
11:00 pm 12-A The Potential for QT Prolongation and Proarrhythmia
11:30 pm by Non-Antiarrhythmic Drugs
Speaker: Anastacio R. Aquino, MD
11:30 nn 12-B Evaluation and Management of Adults with
12:00 nn Congenital Heart Disease
Speaker: Gregorio B. Patacsil, Jr., MD
Isla 3 SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA III - B
Chair: Marcelo R. Esguerra, MD
Co-Chair: Gilbert C. Vilela, MD
11:00 am 12-C Preventive Cardiology Program In the Philippines
11:30 am Speaker: Marcelito L. Durante, MD
11:30 pm 12-D Expanding Role of Cardiac Rehabilitation In CVD
12:00 nn Speaker: Antonio S. Sibulo, Jr., MD

12:00 nn LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIA
02:00 pm Isla 1 Johnson & Johnson
Isla 2 Merck
Isla 3 Sanofi Synthelabo
Isla 1 PLENARY SESSION VII & VIII
Chair: George J. Pangwi, MD
Co-chair: Patricio P. Palmes, MD
02:00 pm 13 Polypharmacy In Cardiology: Prioritized Risk Reduction
02:30 pm Speaker: Esperanza I. Cabral, MD
02:30 pm 14 Non-traditional Risk Factors In Coronary Heart
03:00 pm Disease
Speaker: Romeo D. Saavedra, MD

Isla 3 PLENARY SESSION IX & X
Chair: Wilberto L. Lopez, MD
Co-chair: Camilo I. Porciuncula, MD
03:00 pm 15 Effective Screening for Cardiovascular Diseases Among
03:30 pm Apparently Healthy Filipinos
Speaker: Dante D. Morales, MD
03:30 pm 16 Revisiting The Lipid: Heart Theory
04:00 pm Speaker: Conrado S. Dayrit, MD

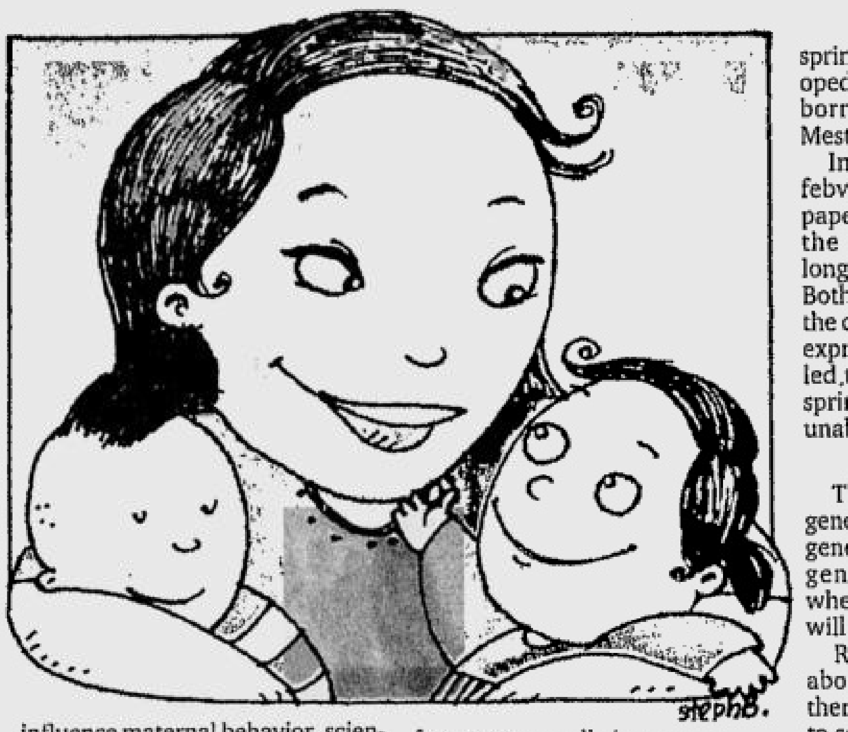
06:00 pm Isla 2 CLOSING CEREMONIES
CHAPTERS' PRESENTATION

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

Do genes a mother make?

By Massie K. Santos
Contributor



MERE mention of the word "mother" tends to make most people nostalgic.

A mother cooks, cleans and teaches her kids how to read. She's a housewife, a nurse, a businesswoman, or a journalist. She works wherever she has to so she could send her kids to college. She makes chicken soup for her sick family, baby-sits her grandchildren, and calls (or texts) her children every so often to check up on them now that they live on their own.

But lately there seems to be a shortage of "mothers."

Just a few months ago, Andrea Yates of Texas was found guilty of drowning her own children. Last year, Rosalina Sabala made news when she tried to poison herself and her three sons and put the blame on Jollibee. In California, a mother stands trial for walking into her ex-husband's home and stabbing her 13-year-old son several times while his unsuspecting grandparents puttered in the kitchen downstairs.

What made these women kill, or try to kill, their own children? Are some people "born" to become mothers? Or are the skills for good motherhood learned along the way?

Nature vs nurture

The question of nature versus nurture has baffled scientists for generations, and it doesn't look like it will be completely resolved soon.

Despite passionate arguments against the existence of genes that influence maternal behavior, scientific evidence is irrefutable. But equally irrefutable is the fact that genes alone do not a mother make.

The field of behavioral genetics is a controversial one. Behavior is defined as the response to a stimulus, which may be hereditary or come from a person's social circle or surroundings.

In 1996, Dr. Bown and his colleagues at Harvard Medical School in Boston announced they had found a gene in mice which when inactivated makes mother mice unable to nurture their young. These researchers did point out though that the Fos genes were activated by specific environmental stimuli. This led to the conclusion that genetic factors alone do not determine the maternal makeup. Environmental factors are equally important.

Paternal genes

Two years later, researchers led by Dr. Louis Lefebvre of the Wellcome/CRC Institute of Cancer and Developmental Biology in England announced they could prove that maternal instinct had a genetic basis. According to a Nature Genetics article, the group worked with mice and had discovered that the Mest gene, also known as Peg1, was imprinted—which meant that although two copies or alleles of the gene were received from each parent, only one copy was activated.

In the case of the Mest gene, only the paternal allele was active. When the maternal allele was activated instead of the father's, the mother mice had no interest in her offsprings, who were also underdeveloped at birth compared with mice born to mothers with the active Mest gene from the father.

In 1999, colleagues of Dr. Lefebvre at Cambridge published a paper discussing the gene Peg3—the name indicating that it belonged to the same family as Mest. Both genes are imprinted and only the copy received from the father is expressed. Mutating the Peg3 gene led to retarded growth of the offsprings, and also made the mother unable to care for her children.

Several genes

The similarities between the Peg genes, and the existence of the FosB gene, suggest that there are several genes involved in determining whether or not a mother can and will care for her children.

Research on the genes listed above continues today, although there may never be any tests done to see if human maternal behavior can be explained the same way mice behavior had been.

The role of the mother in a child's development has never been disputed, and scientific data only proved that.

Still, one should come away from all this with the idea that fathers play an equally important role in child rearing. After all, science says that the gene for mothering comes from the father.

This means that while every adult is aware that their actions impart messages to the children around them, every little boy out there has a special responsibility—to make sure they pass on the right alleles to their daughters someday.

(The author may be contacted at massie@massie.com.)

Drug shows promise to treat osteoporosis

By Charles E. Buban

EXERCISE and a diet rich in calcium and Vitamin D are necessary ingredients that make one's bones healthy and strong. But what if they are not enough to check the rate of bone loss in our body?

It is a fact that as we grow older our bones become less dense and weaker. In theory, therefore, we are all at risk of developing osteoporosis, a process that depletes both the calcium salts and the protein (called collagen) from the bone thus, weakening them in the process.

Osteoporosis is often called the "silent killer" because the condition involves a progressive loss of bone density that can often go undetected until it is already severe and fractures begin to occur. If undetected, the degree of bone loss can leave a person disabled and in a great deal of pain.

In patients with osteoporosis, bone fractures (usually the spine, hips and the wrists) can occur from minor falls or injuries.

Certain factors may accelerate osteoporosis and it is important that we become aware of them. These factors include menopause, smoking and alcohol, lack of exercise, diet, family and medical history, previous fracture and low body weight.

Effective drugs

Today effective drug therapies, aside from diet and exercise, can help improve the quality of life of patients with osteoporosis. One of the most promising is a group of nonhormonal drugs called bisphosphonates.

Bisphosphonates work by binding permanently to the surfaces of the bones and slowing bone-eroding cells (osteoclasts). This allows bone-building cells (osteoblasts) to work more effectively. The result is usually an increase in bone mass (density) and a reduced risk of breaking bones (fractures.)

Clinical studies have shown that bisphosphonates like alendronate sodium slow down bone turnover, build up bones and reduce the risk of painful and debilitating fractures of the vertebra and hips.

Recently, the dosing regimen for alendronate sodium was simplified from once daily to once weekly.

"But you should consult your doctor before taking (the drug) or if you are considering this treatment option for osteoporosis," reminds Dr. Joseph Lee, president of the Medical Advisory Board of Healthway Medical Clinics-Binondo.

Public information

"In recent years, bone diseases such as osteoporosis have received a lot of attention from the health care and pharmaceutical community. This particular condition is widespread and we need all the help we can get to inform the public about it," says Lee.

He says the prevalence of osteoporosis could be comparable to other major diseases like cardiovascular or respiratory diseases or even some forms of cancer.

Healthway clinics have entered a partnership with pharmaceutical firm Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines for a Bone and Joint Care Day program which gives patients information about osteoporosis and osteoarthritis.

"Through these sessions, we are able to reach more patients and at the same time give them free exams," says Lee.

YES... HAIR LOSS CAN BE TREATED!

Do something
about it --
NOW.

Hair loss can be alarming, especially when it happens suddenly. Excessive hair loss has many causes. It can result from childbirth, high fever, severe infection, major surgery, chronic illness, thyroid disease and fungus infection of the scalp. Inadequate protein in the diet, some medications, cancer treatments, birth control pills, low serum iron, improper hair care and improper use of hair cosmetics and hereditary thinning are other causes. All these may result in some form of baldness (alopecia).

The most common type of hair loss affecting men is called male pattern baldness. The development of this condition depends on a genetic predisposition (heredity), male hormones (androgen) and age. The hair loss usually begins on the sides (temples) or on the top of the head (crown). Some men lose only some hair and develop a bald spot on the crown or a receding hairline. Others, especially those who experience hair loss at a young age, may go completely bald.

In women, hormonal imbalance is one of the key factors that can lead to hair loss. An oval area of thinning is seen over the top of the scalp which may progress from mild to moderate to severe thinning.

If you shed a lot of hair when you comb or brush your hair or if your hair becomes thinner or falls out, consult a dermatologist. Expect questions about diet, medications including vitamins, family history of hair loss, recent illness, and hair care methods. After careful examination of your hair and scalp, your dermatologist may study a few hairs under the microscope or perform some more laboratory tests. This may include a biopsy or sample of the scalp. Remember, the diagnosis and treatment of baldness is best left to the authority - your dermatologist.

A health information service from

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PDS Secretariat, RM 1015 South Tower
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E-mails from students

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE FOLLOWING are brief replies to four e-mail queries of high school and college students.

Lenny [vocals_un2ks@edsamail.com.ph] asks about bananas as a health cure.

I am 14 years old and our class is doing a research on innovations to help the community. Can bananas be a treatment for obesity? Can I use its leaves to make tea?

You can use banana leaves to make tea, although I am not sure what they will taste like. But nowhere have I come across any research which suggests that bananas can cure obesity.

Of course, bananas are healthy when eaten in moderation (they are fruits, after all). They contain certain minerals, such as potassium, which is needed by the body.

Eating a balanced diet with lots of fruits and vegetables, when coupled with exercise, can help people manage their weight and their health. But to single out bananas as a miracle cure—I don't think so.

A student who does not want to be identified [itstudent@gurlmail.com] is interested in cryptography.

I am a computer science student in SLU. Can you give me some information about encryption? I read some of your past articles on this topic and I want to have copies. I am having a hard time finding them on the Net. Can you tell me the dates when you wrote about them?

I did write about cryptography (including encryption) two years ago. Refer to my Eureka! columns on Jan. 25 and Feb. 9, 2000. I hope they are still in the INQUIRER archives. However, there are many good websites on this issue. Why don't you use a search engine and hunt for them yourself?

Jose Carlo David [carlod@ nsclub.net] inquires about science museums.

I read your really interesting article in the www.inq7.net site while doing research. I am an architecture student at UST and my thesis is on science museums. I find it really hard to look for the proper science museum exhibit categories. Do you have any suggestions about what a Philippine science museum should have?

We already have a few science museums in the country. The Philippine Science Heritage Center (Salinlahi) is located in the Department of Science and Technology compound in Bicutan, Taguig. I have written extensively about this museum. Why don't you visit the place and comment on its exhibits?

Doing research on the Web is not bad, but to have a really good feel of museums, you need actual experience.

Another museum—this time for kids—is Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard. This is not solely a science museum (for instance, it has history sections), but it does have a science section. I would suggest you go there, too.

However, the best science museum (in fact, the best museum) in the world (at least, in my opinion) is the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Go to its site and experience a virtual reality tour. Then you will have a better idea of what an ideal science museum is.

Coochie Balce [runcoochierun@hotmail.com] requests for an explanation regarding chaos theory.

I am a UP student and I always look forward to your column because science fascinates me. One of my favorite books is "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton. I've read it several times. I remember one instance when Dr. Ian Malcolm, one of the protagonists (played by Jeff Goldblum in the film), said that black and gray clothes are actually good for heat. He cited blackbody radiation. We have discussed blackbody radiation in passing in our natural science class a few years back, but I barely had a grasp of its concepts. Is black really good for heat? I would also appreciate it if you could explain the chaos theory and the butterfly effect.

Black clothes absorb more heat than lighter ones. Why then do people in warm countries (like ours) wear black clothes?

Let me quote from sciencenet.org.uk: "It is true that the black clothes people in hot countries sometimes wear do get hotter than if they wore white. However, as a result, the clothes are much hotter than the body, causing a large difference in temperature between the two. Temperature differences cause air to move, in effect creating a breeze. This breeze cools the body."

As for blackbody radiation, it is simply the maximum energy that can be radiated by an object. A blackbody is a theoretical object, (in physics terms, emissivity approaches 1.0), which is both a perfect absorber and emitter of radiation. A graybody has lower emissivity. Refer to electro-optical.com/bb_rad/bb_rad.htm for more details.

I have written several articles on the chaos theory, and you may want to refer to them (the latest one appeared May 8, 2002 on my Mind Games column at www.inq7.net, where I discussed the chaos theory and the heart). You may want to get a copy of my first book, "Why Be Afraid of Math," which contains an article on chaos ("Beauty from Chaos") and even color graphs of chaotic phenomena (called fractals).

Just a brief description of the chaos theory: Chaos in this sense is not identical to the ordinary layperson's conception of total disorder. Underlying chaotic events is a certain order (that's why equations and some predictions can be made regarding them). Examples of chaotic phenomena are the weather, water turbulence, population growth and neural wave behavior.

Another characteristic of chaotic phenomena is the so-called butterfly effect, where a minute disturbance in initial conditions eventually produces bigger changes all throughout the system. It is said that when a butterfly flaps its wings in Baguio, then the weather patterns in say India, will be affected.

In "Jurassic Park," mathematician Ian Malcolm (math of course underlies all chaos theory, even if applications range from meteorology to sociology) warns forebodingly of what changes may happen if mankind tries to tweak nature—in this case, to genetically produce dinosaurs. He says something about dinosaur populations, which may or may not be really chaotic (we don't have enough data about dinosaurs to know for sure). I suggest you refer to my past articles for further clarification.

Hair loss info drive launched

THE PHILIPPINE Dermatological Society and Merck Sharp & Dohme recently formalized three cooperative activities for disseminating information about hair loss.

The memorandums of agreement were signed by PDS president Dr. Elizabeth Amelia Tianco and Dr. Tadeo Dennis Dioko, Propecia product manager for MSD. Witnesses to the signing were Dr. Clarita Maaño, PDS immediate past president, and Virgilio Dizon, MSD business unit director.

The signing was held recently at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The first cooperative activity deals with the dermatologists directory and information program, which was launched last year and has been renewed for another year. Patients seeking medical advice on hair loss can call up the MSD Call Center at 878-6338 to obtain the names of certified dermatologists from a random computer-generated listing of dermatologists who are PDS members and their contact information based on the location of callers.

The second activity involves maintaining a hair loss section on the PDS website www.pds.org.ph. This section will include links to other hair loss sites on the Net. The PDS membership directory listing will be updated to include the clinic addresses of the members.

The last activity includes a print ad campaign for providing Filipinos with adequate information on hair loss in general and male pattern hair loss in particular. It also intends to encourage readers who have problems with hair loss to consult dermatologists.

The PDS is the national organization of certified dermatologists committed to maintaining quality care of the skin, hair and nails. It is a member of the Philippine Medical Association, the International League of Dermatological Societies, and the League of Asean Dermatological Societies. It celebrated its golden anniversary this year.

SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ◎ Assistant Editor Edmund L. Sicam

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Madonna, Gwyneth battle to be hailed London's theater queen

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Let the "Battle of the Boards" commence—Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow go head to head on Monday to see who will be crowned Queen of London's theaterland.

Box-office boost

The Tinseltown stars have given a box-office boost to a theater capital now rebounding from the effects of last year's suicide attacks on New York and Washington.

Paltrow and Madonna may be the best of friends—the Oscar-winning actress flew to Scotland for the wedding of the pop superstar—but now they are to tread the boards at the same time and comparisons inevitably abound.

"Madge versus Gwynnie—Who will be crowned Queen of the West End?" asked the Evening Standard newspaper as the pair embarked on preview runs for two hits already sold out before the first night.

Paltrow was first into the ring with "Proof," the Broadway hit play by American David Auburn in which she plays the daughter of a mad mathematical genius.

At the previews—when a play is traditionally given an early run-through before the critics are admitted—members of the audience said she was spell-binding and brilliant.

Security staff

As she bedded down into the role in the lead-up to Wednesday's first night, security staff frisked the audience to ensure they were not carrying cameras.

On Monday, it is the turn of Madonna to launch previews of "Up for Grabs," a tale by Australian playwright David Williamson about an ambitious art dealer. Her first night is on May 23.

Matt Wolf, London theater critic for Hollywood's Variety trade newspaper, thoroughly approved of all the hype. "Anything that makes theater sexy and desirable is to be applauded," he told Reuters.

But what attracts stars like Kevin Spacey, Nicole Kidman and Matt Damon to abandon

MADONNA/ p. C2

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Stars play frenetic game of musical chairs on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER Rico Yan's untimely death, the void he left on the "Whattamen" sitcom had to be filled, so show biz observers busied themselves with coming up with lists of possible replacements. They concentrated on young male comers who shared Rico's bedimpled good looks and breezy appeal, to contrast nicely with Marvin Agustin and Dominic Ochoa's own zany attributes.

Moot and academic

So, which one did the ABS-CBN fountain bless?—Joyce Jimenez! Yes, the sitcom has just acquired a new female star instead of a male replacement to bolster its ratings, thus rendering zealous show biz pundits' best prognostications moot and academic.

Come to think of it, this is par for the course for the way the TV network has been solving casting problems this year. Perhaps due to its much-publicized financial constraints, when Janet McBride left "Talk TV" some months ago, nobody took her place, and the program was left with only three co-hosts—Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola and Ryan Agoncillo.

An even bigger programming adjustment on Channel 2 is the cancellation of Joyce and Aga Muhlach's "Da Pilya and Da Pilot," with Joyce going to "Whattamen" and Aga teaming up with Bayani Agbayani in the new sitcom, " OK Fine! Whatever."

Letdown

This is a letdown for both Aga and Joyce, and a boost for Bayani. It's never easy for stars to admit that their show isn't doing as well as expected, and must be terminated and replaced with new assignments.

MUHLACH, JIMENEZ AND AGBAYANI. Have a lot riding on thier latest career moves on television.

In Joyce's case, some people speculate that viewers prefer her sexy instead of girl-next-door. Blame this on the mental " imprinting" that all of her bold films effected on the viewing public.

As for Aga, his movie career is coming along swimmingly (he was hailed as the male box-office champ last year, in fact), but things haven't been as bright for him on TV.

Rough sailing

After his longrunning "Oki Doki Doc" was replaced by "The Body and the Guard," the new sitcom encountered rough sailing. To our mind, this was partly due to the fact that, while Aga's character in the show was supposed to be a pilot, he didn't really get to travel much, so the show's ratings failed to fly.

The sitcom was "adjusted" to "Da Pilya and Da Pilot," but its fortunes remained earthbound, thus the decision to finally throw in the towel and terminate the show.

Will Aga fare better with comedian Bayani? The combination will push him to be at his comedic best, while Rica Peralejo and other comely female talents will be around for the flirtation and romance that Joyce used to provide. If things work out, we will be seeing a funnier Aga this year.

Major draw

The big winner in this game of TV musical chairs is Bayani. Let's hope that he doesn't flub this chance to show that he can share stellar TV credits with a major draw like Aga.

He should thus tone down his tendency to be whiny and broad, to keep using the same comic mannerisms and expressions to draw laughs. His best suit is his Everyman quality, and this is what he should stress on his new sitcom with Aga.

The big deal in "OK Fine! Whatever" is the fact that Aga and Bayani are cast as—twins! Well, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny De Vito played even more ludicrously different twins on the big screen in 1988, so the Aga-Bayani comic concept is not *that* far out. Let's give the new show a chance, and see how it pans out in the next few months.

Madonna, Gwyneth battle to be hailed . . .

From p. C1

their luxury film set trailers for pokey little theater dressing rooms?

Exoticism

"It certainly isn't the money. They could make more in a half-hour photo shot. It is the exoticism of London. If you make it in London, everyone back home is extremely impressed," Wolf said.

"The runs they are asked to do are very short and that is definitely attractive. It is very hard in New York to do a play for five to six weeks," he added.

But are British actors up in arms about the Tinseltown invasion? Not at all, says Martin Brown of the performers' union Equity.

"I think it is good to have such a buzz round the West End. It fills the theaters and gives good work to our members," he told Reuters. "It also has the potential of bringing a newer, younger audience in." So, who is going to be crowned Drama Queen?

Brown is ever diplomatic: "Who knows? I wish them both the best of luck."

Reuters

Motherhood is worth all the pain and sacrifice for celebrity mommies

By Jocelyn Valle

(Conclusion)

JANICE de Belen's sister and co-host, Gelli de Belen mentions a few sacrifices she's been making for her sons Joaqui, 3, and Julio, 1: "Work, for instance. I accept less of it. Second, *'yung* lifestyle *ng pagiging dalaga, 'di na pwede 'yun.*

Good manners

"Can't swear in front of them. If you teach them good manners, you have to be a role model for them. "Also, career opportunities *na* if I were single I'd take; like traveling abroad or accepting a major project that will take time away from them."

But Gelli would never trade those minus points for her kids. "Motherhood," she elucidates, "gave me a different view on life, on my purpose in this world. *Nagkaroon ako ng mas malinaw na direksyon.*

Changes

*"Nandito ako para i-*guide *sila na maging mabuting tao*. I think that summarizes the changes I've made in my lifestyle and character."

Gelli glows as she narrates the joys of motherhood: "Waking up beside your children and seeing them smile, and say that they love you. Your face lights up when you get home from work. Having the opportunity to guide and mold a human being into a better person than you are."

The proud mom marvels at her sons' similarities and differences. She describes Joaqui as *"mabait na bata* who listens and follows," while Julio is a lot stronger and bolder. Both kids are *malambing*, she grins.

Choices

But she worries that her kids might not be able to live their lives to the fullest as they grow up in a world that won't give them enough choices and opportunities. "And that they don't make the most out of life because of those fears and limitations," she sighs.

ALVAREZ. Just loves looking at her kids.

Singer-stage actress Isay Alvarez, meanwhile, has no major fears for her kids Didang, 16, Bok, 10, and Miong, 3, except when her firstborn finds a boyfriend. *"Sana 'wag siyang ma-*involve *masyado,"* she prays.

But she's certain that her teenager will grow up to be a strong person. "She's frank and *napaka-pilosopa,"* she says when asked about the traits that Didang got from her.

Both mom and daughter sing well, and they look alike, too. Isay insists, though, that Didang looks a lot better than she does. Her "facsimile," says Isay, is Miong.

Energetic

Bok, on the other hand is a lot like his dad, singer-theater actor Robert Seña. "He's very energetic and he sings well, too," Isay remarks of her middle child.

"When I had my third child, I gave up *na*," she recalls. Her performances now are limited to the musical quartet Angfourgettables' bookings, and occasional singing and hosting engagements. (She's also Robert's manager and, she laughs, his PA and driver.)

But she's not complaining. "I'm so blessed to have three kids," she smiles. "I just love to look at them. *Kung may tumatawag nga sa bahay at tinatanong kung anong ginagawa ko, sasabihin ko, 'Wala, tinititigan ko lang ang mga anak ko."*

Maritoni Fernandez feels similarly lucky to have her only child, seven-year-old Alexia. What would she sacrifice for her? "Whatever it takes" is her quick answer.

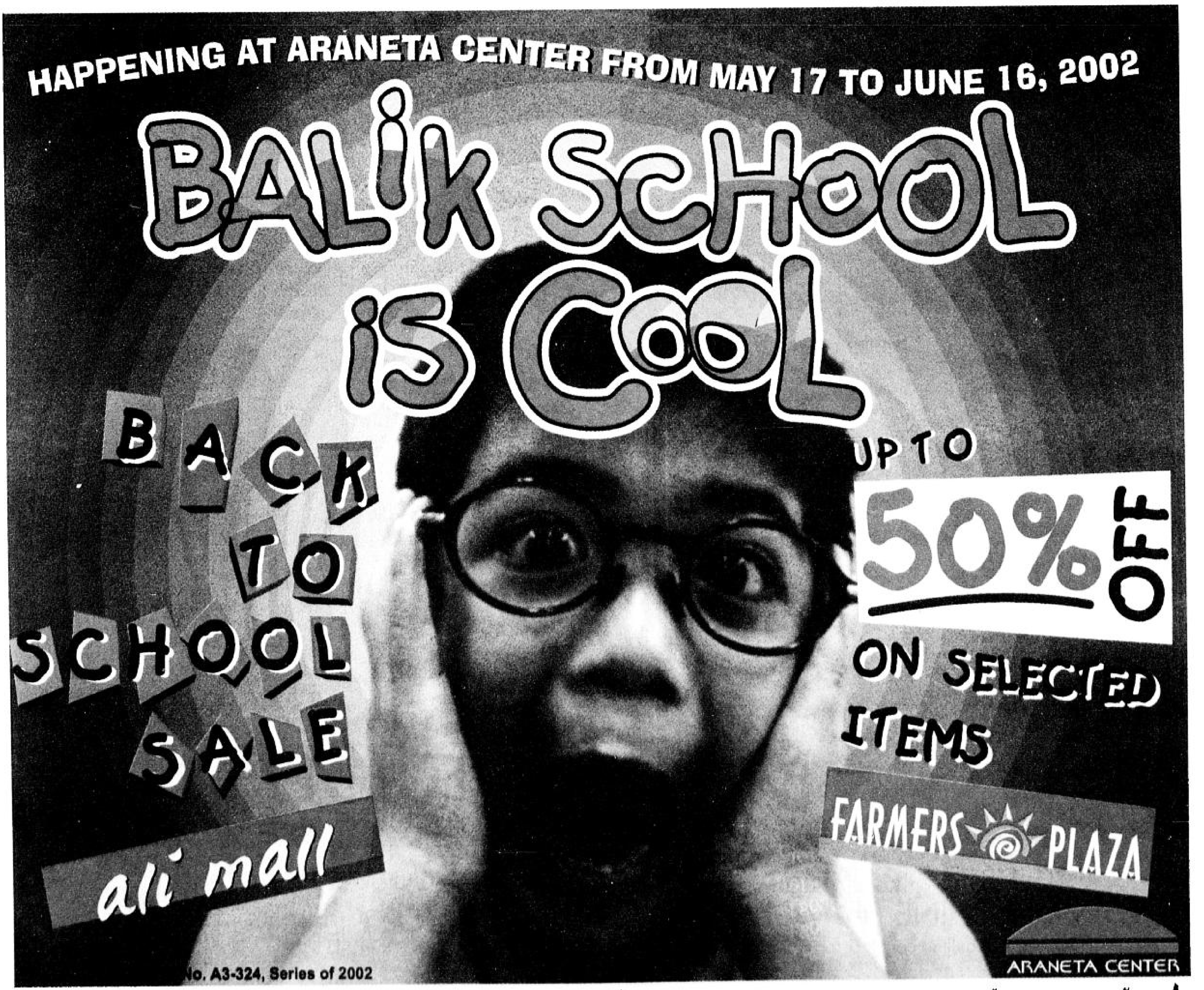
Strength

When Maritoni was battling breast cancer, her darling daughter was her strength and inspiration to get better. "I had chemotherapy and she saw me in a really, really bad way," she recounts. "But she would always tell me: 'Mommy, you can do it. You fight. He'll make you better.' Her faith in God was blind. *Wala siyang* doubt *na 'yung hinihingi niya, ibibigay."*

Just like her, says Maritoni, Alexia is strong. They are both fighters and survivors. They are also neat freaks.

"Motherhood has taught me a lot," Maritoni shares. "Everyday, I learn from my daughter. For example, *may nawawala akong gamit, nagfi-*freak out *na ako. Sasabihin sa akin ng anak ko:* 'Mommy, relax. *And'yan lang 'yan.'*

"And when I'm in the car and I'm late for an appointment and it's traffic, I complain, *'Ano ba 'yan? Kung p'wede lang paliparin ang kotse!' Sasabihin ng anak ko:* 'Mommy, there's nothing you can do. Let's play *na lang.*' Little things like that!"



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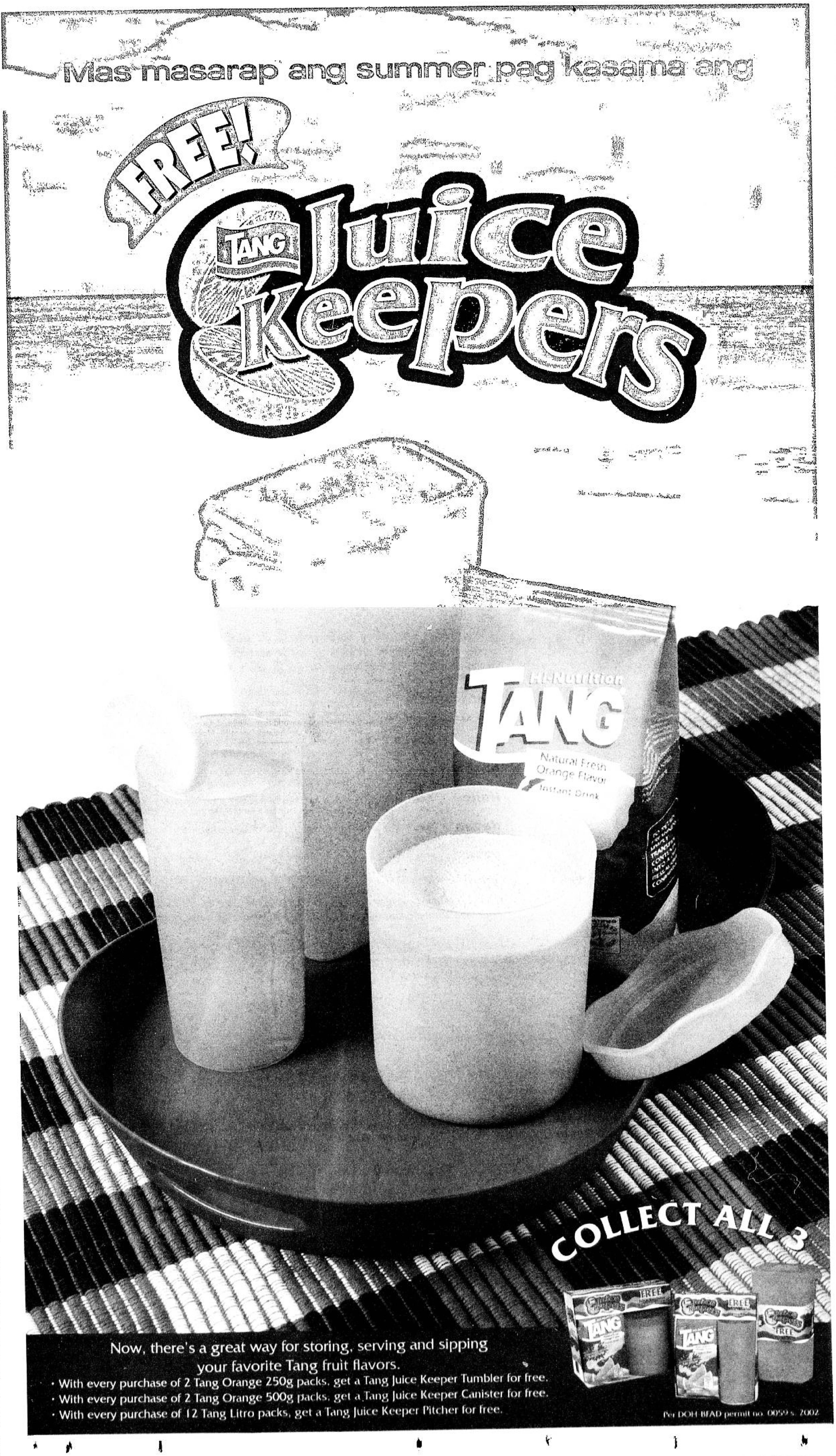
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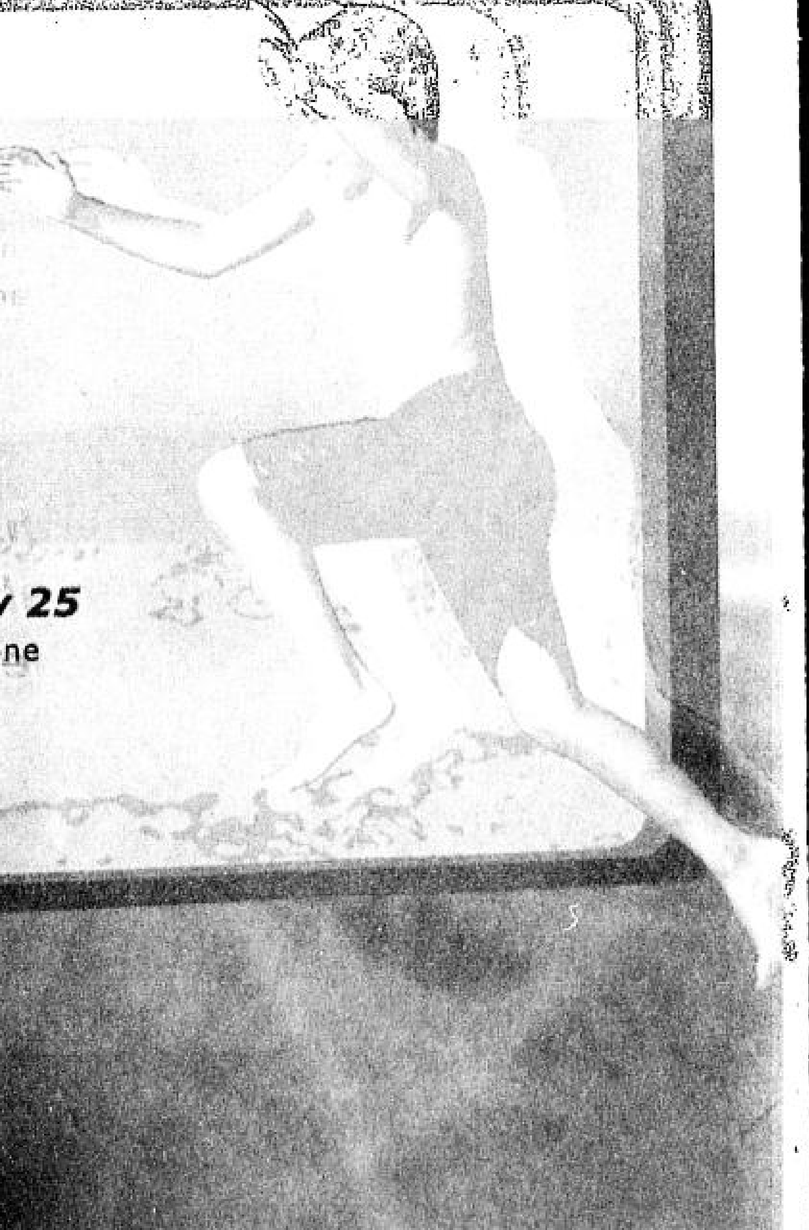

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The sexiest and most beautiful celebrities of 2002

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

ALONG with summer's scorching heat and humidity, we will up the ante by featuring some of the entertainment world's most widely anticipated lists: People's "50 Most Beautiful People," "The Sexiest Man Alive" and Teen People's "Hottest Stars Under 25." If the heat doesn't you make you perspire, these lists probably will.

Beauty may be skin deep, but it gets people places faster.

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show Biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I have quite a few names on my 'Most Beautiful People' list. I know that names and faces on the list change every year. Who are this year's 'kings' and 'queens'? An update would be truly appreciated." —*Rona de Lim, Valenzuela, Metro Manila.*

People Magazine's annual list of beautiful people is eagerly anticipated, not only because it gauges the physical beauty of celebrities but because industry wags use the list as a parameter for a star's commercial appeal and fame.

Fusion

Early this month, the 13th annual list came out with a fusion of familiar and not-so-familiar names. Female celebrities in the list included Jennifer Aniston (whose better half, Brad Pitt, didn't make it this time around), Halle Berry (who appeared on the list for the sixth time!), Jennifer Connelly, Cindy Crawford, Kirsten Dunst (Spider-Man's Mary Jane didn't extend her luck to Spidey's alter-ego, Tobey Maguire), Cameron Diaz, Jody Foster, Ashley Judd, Alicia Keys, Nicole Kidman (who lands on the cover), Mandy Moore and Britney Spears (see, niceness and skin-tight outfits have their advantages, too), Natalie Portman (The Force was obviously with her), Shakira (accents can be sexy), Diane Sawyer (whoever said beauty regresses at 40?), Audrey Tautou (of "Amelie"), Naomi Watts (of David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive"), Reese Witherspoon (with no Ryan Phillippe in tow), among others. Oh, and Julia Roberts was on the list, too, for a record seventh time! What, no Angelina Jolie?

In the men's list were Hayden Christensen (who was fantastic in the drama, "Life as a House," and is in this week's "Star Wars, Episode 2: Attack of the Clones" as Anakin), Craig David (who proved that a beautiful R&B voice can make one sexy, too), Denzel Washington (made the list for the fifth time), Josh Hartnett, Paul Walker (whose classically handsome features helped "The Fast and the Furious" and the scary "Joy Ride" score at the box office), Viggo Mortensen (uh-oh, won't Froddo be upset?) and Luke Wilson (sorry, Owen, your younger brother has a better nose).

Previous winners

On the other hand, People's annual "The Sexiest Man Alive" was announced last November. Previous winners included Brad Pitt (who won the title twice), George Clooney, Mel Gibson, Tom Cruise and the late John F. Kennedy Jr. The current winner? Brosnan. Pierce Brosnan.

For the teen set, Teen People came out with its "25 Hottest Stars Under 25" list for young movie stars, pop icons, veejays and TV celebrities. The girls: Alexis Bledel, Kirsten Dunst (again!), Eve, Alicia Keys, Kristin Kreuk (who plays Lana Lang in the upcoming teenage Superman TV series, "Smallville," that will premiere this month on Studio 23), Mya (remember her in the "Lady Marmalade" video with Christina Aguilera?), Anna Paquin, Anne Hathaway ("Princess Diaries"), Julia Stiles, Zhang Ziyi ("Crouching Tiger") and Natalie Portman.

The guys: Orlando Bloom (who will be seen with Heath Ledger in "The Kelly Gang" soon), John Mayer, Hayden Christensen, Fabolous (yes, the name is spelled that way), Jake Gyllenhaal ("Bubble Boy"), Josh Hartnett, Ashton Kutcher, Linkin Park, Saves the Day (what a name!), The Strokes, Usher, Andrew W.K. and MTV VJ Gideon Yago.

CONNELLY. Cited by People's magazine for the first time

WASHINGTON. Has made the list for the fifth year.

"What is Meryl Streep's next film? I am a huge fan of the actress, but she has not appeared on the big screen for sometime now. I heard she's been acting on stage, but what about movies?"—*Corazon Llamado, Gen. Santos City.*

Don't despair. After lending her voice last year as the Blue Fairy in Steven Spielberg's "Artificial Intelligence," Streep, regarded by many critics as the greatest living film actress, is doing a couple of high-profile projects for the big screen and on the boob tube.

Two films

Two of her films are scheduled for release this year: "The Hours" tells the story of three women in different eras who are all profoundly affected by the works of Virginia Woolf (played by the omnipresent Nicole Kidman). It also stars Julianne Moore, Claire Danes, Miranda Richardson and Ed Harris.

The second film is "Adaptation," Spike Jonze's ("Being John Malkovich") film on Charlie Kaufman's attempt to adapt Susan Orlean's "The Orchid Thief" for the screen, with Nicolas Cage.

On the small screen, Streep started shooting last month the HBO adaptation of Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning stage play on contemporary gay life, "Angels in America," staged by the New Voice Company in the Philippines in 1996.

What makes this small-screen version particularly interesting is its casting: Streep, Al Pacino, Emma Thompson, Mary Louise Parker (who won a Tony Best Actress award for her performance in "Proof") and Robert Duvall.

Top-notch director Mike Nichols (who recently won an Emmy for directing Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Wit") is at the helm.

Trivia

Long before Spider-Man's Kirsten Dunst starred with three of Hollywood's hottest male actors (Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Antonio Banderas) in Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire" (1993) at age 11 as the blood-sucking Claudia, and with great actresses Susan Sarandon, Winona Ryder, Claire Danes and Mary Wickes in 1994's "Little Women," she was already a Ford model and a commercial endorser at age 3!

Her best friend is upcoming actress Brittany Murphy, who wowed critics with her performance in Michael Douglas', "Don't Say A Word."

Multi-awarded Amy Austria wins the best prize of all

By Mona Gonzalez

BABY boomers remember her as the bold star with genuine talent, who lived with matinee idol Jay Ilagan for nine years. Others know her as the star of "Muro-Ami" and "Bagong Buwan." And couch potatoes would recognize her from the TV series, "Pangako Sa Iyo."

Amy is lucky that after such a lengthy career (including a similarly long sabbatical when she lived in with Jay) people still remember her. Surprisingly, it is Jay Ilagan whom many young viewers today don't know.

And yet, at his peak, Jay made many young girls swoon and, when he grew older, he became one of the Bad Bananas (with Christopher de Leon, Edgar Mortiz and Johnny Delgado).

Question

When Amy addressed some 40 guests at the True Riches Ministry (which meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Fusion Cafe, Greenbelt, Makati), she started off with the question, "Those who know Jay Ilagan, raise their hands." And then she talked about the man she never stopped loving.

AUSTRIA. No such thing as a hopeless situation—even in the worst of times.

When you hear her story, at many points she sounds like people you know who aren't stars. When she talks of how she loved Jay, she reminds you of a friend who tended to love too much. When she talks of life after Jay (when she yearned for another partner in life), she sounds like single-parent friends of yours who also want to settle down.

Sometimes she sounds like a typical working mother, struggling hard to make ends meet. At other times, she reminds you of a troubled friend who had wrestled with drugs. All your friends, married or single, at one point in time-were Amy Austria. And she talks most candidly about it.

Amy captivated the crowd without even reading a script! She began by talking about her turbulent family, where her parents were *"bati-hiwalay,bati-hiwalay"* until they separated for good when she was 20.

Breadwinner

When she was only 14, she became the family breadwinner as an actress. She did "bold scenes," the "wet look," and long kissing scenes, the usual requirements of daring roles. But she was a good actress and by age 17, she had won her first award.

Then Amy fell in love and lived with Jay for nine years. "Although we weren't married, I did everything for him. I quit show biz and was his barber, *masahista*, nurse and doctor. I was a handyman, I even did carpentry. But I couldn't save him from death."

When Jay died on Feb. 4, 1992, Amy wanted to die, too. She would comfort herself by thinking, "At least, I loved him completely." But today she advises differently: "Never love *nang todo*," she says, "It's like idolatry."

In her grief, she turned to drugs. She also turned spiritual, but "I sought God's comfort, not God." Sometimes she mixed going to a retreat with drugs in her purse. She prayed, "Lord, get me off drugs. And please, let me have no withdrawal symptoms."

Answered prayer

That was her first answered prayer! Amy says with finality that, unlike previous attempts when she tried to kick the habit, "I was able to get off drugs, and I had no withdrawal symptoms at all."

She also recalls how a priest laid hands on her and prayed, "Lord, You be Amy's husband." That's when she started to move on. Like many single friends you may know, Amy went back to work-and joined a gym (*"para sumeksi"*).

And, like many single women, she sometimes looked for love in the wrong places, until she settled for a man who was "less than Jay" and lived with him for one turbulent year.

All her efforts simply weren't working! And as her painful relationship tore at her self esteem, friends Rio Locsin and Maricel Laxa told her, "God can put your life together and give you a husband. God can turn black into white. He can clean anyone—even a prostitute."

Bible study group

Amy accepted Jesus into her life and left her live-in lover after attending a Bible study group with former star Isabel Rivas.

She says, "God's love is unconditional, but his blessings are conditional. As long as I lived in sin, God couldn't work out His plan for my life."

Amy adds that Bible study helped her see that the answer wasn't in men. Instead, she could be complete in God. "At that point, I again surrendered my life to God. But this time, I understood the full meaning of surrender," Amy says.

A full surrender did not guarantee a problem-free life. Amy laughingly recalls how an actor pursued her with gusto, even serenading her in a bar. It seemed to be extraordinarily romantic, but a week later, he left for a singing engagement in Japan, where he performed all the songs he had sung for her. He had used her for practice!

But three years ago, she did get married. Early in the courtship she told her future husband, "I won't have sex without a husband. That's what God wants for me."

"As a married woman," Amy says, "for the first time in my life, I felt worthy. God gave me a loving husband--I was no longer someone's second or consolation prize. Once, I would have been content just being someone's consolation prize . But God gave me first prize! I loved Jay with all my heart. But that love can in no way compare with the love that God gave me with my husband."

Love scenes

Even her financial life fell into place.

MULTI -AWARDED/ p. C7

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY [illegible] MAY 24

CH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *Dinosaurs*	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Kissing A Fool	8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Gary Sinise*
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:00 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *American Me* 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Drop Zone* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinamaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Summer Escape 8:00 Rank Sexiest Man In Entertainment 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Meg Ryan* 10:00 Movies on E! *To Sir With Love*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correpondents	4:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Baltang-Baltal 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Viva's Hot Hits! 8:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:30 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Ibiza 2002*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 10:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Baltang-Baltal 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 NBI Files	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 PBA Games 10:00 The Weakest Link 11:00 News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:00 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Tinseltown*
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	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision! 5:00 Patrol 117 6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 NBA	6:00 Baltang-Baltal 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request *M2M*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister! 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 PBA Games 10:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 11:00 News	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Barkada Nights 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Ups 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Mile High City*
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Deeply-felt musical tribute to Mr. Pagsi

By Leia Torre

"SUMISIBOL: Mga Awit ng Dulaang Sibol" is an album featuring the famous Ateneo theater group for young people. It is as an accolade to the legendary teacher Onofre Pagsanghan, who spearheaded Dulaang Sibol. To non-Ateneans, Mr. Pagsi is best known as the man behind the musical "Sinta," a Filipino adaptation of the remarkable Broadway play, "The Fantasticks."

Musicals

The album is made up of songs from "Sinta," other musicals like "Tawag," "Kulay Buhay," "The Most Mischievous Angel," and "Sa Kaharian ng Araw," as well as works written for and performed by members of the famous theater group.

Fittingly, the album includes a number of songs composed by Mr. Pagsi--"Huwag Kang Mangamba," "Oyayi," "Kampeon," "Alalahanin, Gunitain," "Ikaw ang Mahal Ko," and "Kay Hesus na Nakabayubay."

The lyrics of two other songs, "Maglakbay" and "Ika'y Aking Kaibigan," were written by Mr. Pagsi in tandem with Joel Pagsanghan, and were part of the musical "Sa Kaharian ng Araw." The only song from "Sinta" in the album is "Alalahanin, Gunitain."

The songs in the album encompass a period of more than 20 years of the theater group's history, from 1973 to 1995.

Context

Because most of the tracks are numbers from musicals, they cannot be fully understood when heard by themselves. They need to be put in context. And because most of their melodies resemble one another, they begin to sound alike after a while. The sequencing of the songs in the album does not help, either. The more fast-paced numbers follow each other, with occasional interruptions by the slower ones. Most of the slow numbers are left for the last part of the album.

PAGSANGHAN. Legendary teacher and theater mentor.

The songs have a special place in the hearts of Pagsanghan and his protegees. Clearly, he's appreciated and loved by all of them

The songs deal mostly with inspirational topics, and the lyrics of two of them are based on passages in the Bible. Most of them sing about the power of prayer and hope.

They have varied themes--"Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue" has the singer pleading with our Lord's mother to teach her how to pray.

Eight lines

"Sa Bawat Oras" has lyrics which have been culled from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and is a very short song, composed of only eight lines. The basic message is that there is a time for doing everything that we need or want to do.

"Awit ni Isaias" is the other song that is based on passages from the Bible, specifically Isaiah 54:10, 6-8 and 41:17, 4-14. It stresses the permanence of God's love, and compares it to other things that we mistakenly deem immutable. Our Lord's constancy is likewise emphasized.

"Voice From The Heavens" is also extremely brief, with three stanzas of two lines each, and a refrain of two lines. This is a prayer that praises and asks for God's love at the same time.

"Alalahanin, Gunitain" is more of a love song about innocence and its loss, sung by a not-so-innocent narrator.

All these songs have a special place in the hearts of Mr. Pagsi and his protegees. It is evident from the way the chorus, composed of members of Dulaang Sibol, performed the songs that their mentor is very much appreciated and loved by all of them.

Tearful Julia Roberts asks lawmakers for more money to research neurological disorder

By Malia Rulon

ROBERTS. Committed advocate.

WASHINGTON--Actress Julia Roberts, choking back tears as she described the death of a 10-year-old girl with Rett syndrome, appealed Thursday for more money to research the neurological disorder that mainly afflicts young girls.

Impressive

"This is very impressive and nerve-racking," Roberts said as she took her seat in a crowded room for a hearing of the House Appropriations subcommittee responsible for public health spending.

"I usually ramble, but this is important, so I'll read," she said.

The disease, which affects about 200,000 girls and women worldwide, leaves them unable to communicate and control body movements and functions. Most develop severe disabilities by age 3.

"These are the voices that we hear today in the halls of Congress," Roberts said over enthusiastic outbursts from children sitting behind her. "They listen but cannot speak. They struggle to do the many things we take for granted everyday."

Public awareness

Roberts told lawmakers she decided to help raise public awareness for the condition after meeting Abigail Brodsky of Brooklyn, New York. Abigail, who filmed a one-hour documentary with the actress for the Discovery Health Channel, died in June at age 10.

"Abigail was my pal," Roberts said, choking back tears. "We spent time together without words. We connected with our eyes."

Roberts asked for the subcommittee to set aside $15.5 million in its 2003 budget, which starts Oct. 1. This year, research on Rett syndrome got $3.5 million in federal funds. *AP*

Multi-awarded

From p. C6

She recalls one "penniless" Christmas when her mananger accepted a movie role--with a downpayment--for her. "The script had love scenes, so I backed out. The producer very kindly said, 'I understand,' Amy promised to return the downpayment. The trouble was— she had already spent it!

Nonetheless she was able to pay it back on time, thanks to a surprise bonus that she received from a show. "The amount from the bonus was exactly what I owed for the downpayment," she says, laughing.

Her manager warned, "No producer will hire you if you have too many limitations." But Amy says, "God is faithful. I got many offers, even at a higher price. And, last year, I paid for my house in full."

One of her toughest trials came when her mother was found to have fourth-stage cancer, six months after Amy married. She was under intensive care for six months, and the bills included P6,000 a day for the room, and P2,000 a day for the respirator. "God provided everything, including a second chance for my mother. She received Christ before she died," Amy says.

She adds, "There is no plan you can make for your life that is better than God's plan for you. You don't need to be pretty, educated, or intelligent. They are blessings, but God doesn't need our ability—only our availability."

For Amy, there is no such thing as a hopeless situation, even in the worst of times. She says, "There is always opportunity. As Christians, we can say, 'I'm not in crisis-I'm in Christ!"

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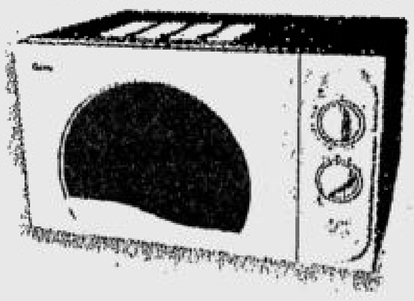

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SATURDAY*Special*

Rockers ditch hell-raising for the good life

By Sinead O'Hanlon

LONDON—Whatever happened to the image of rock musicians as hell-raising wildmen who lived to outdo each other with their drink and drug-fuelled excesses?

Drunken rampage

When R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck went on trial in London, accused of a drunken rampage through the first class cabin of a British Airways flight, his defense depicted him as a loving father who would never indulge in such loutish behavior.

But Buck is not the only one distancing himself from the stereotypical sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll image.

Even the legendary hard men of rock seem to be polishing their halos and becoming model citizens.

British heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne—famed for biting the head off a live bat on stage—is pulling in huge television audiences in the United States with a fly-on-the-wall show

ROCKERS/ p. D2

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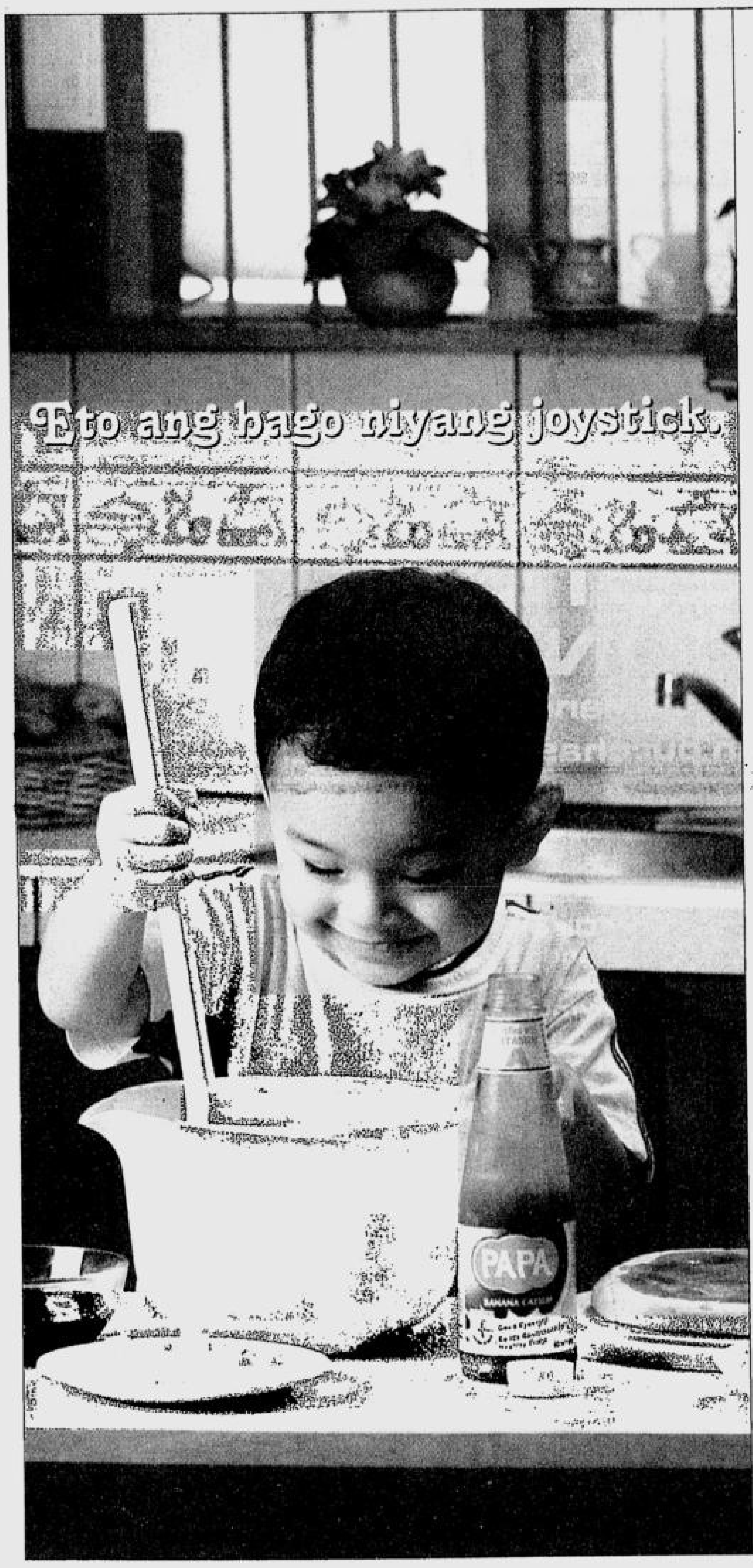
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Collect the recipes na! Let your kids be Kusina Kids, busog sa saya, busog sa sustansya!

PIZZA PRESTO!

PIZZA SAUCE SARAP IN ONE STEP!

- 1/4 cup (or 4 tbsp) Papa Banana Catsup
- 1 tbsp water
- 1/3 tbsp oil

Mix all of the ingredients and you've got your pizza sauce. Use it for all the pizza recipes featured in Pizza Presto!

Cost: Php 2.25

MEATLOAF PIZZA MANIA

- Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce
- 4 slices loaf bread, crusts removed
- 2 slices luncheon meat
- 4 slices cheese (or grated cheese)

Get 1 slice of loaf bread. Flatten one side (about an inch wide) with a spoon. Place a strip of cheese on flattened side. Roll it up and seal. On the remaining side, spread 2 tsps. of Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce. Top with cubed luncheon meat and remaining cheese. Bake at 450°F for 5 mins. (or in oven toaster) or until cheese melts. Good for 4. Enjoy!

Cost per serving: Php 8.25

KUSINA SAFETY TIP
When cutting with a knife or using an oven toaster, don't leave your kid unattended.

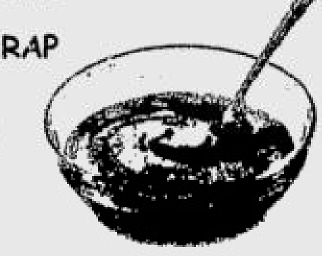
B-C-B (BACON-CHEESE-BURGER) TRIO

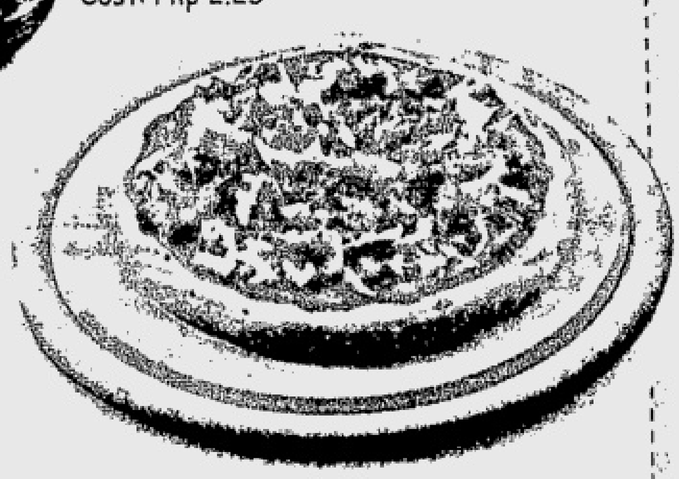
- Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce
- 2 medium-size pizza crusts
- 4 slices bacon
- 1 cup ground beef
- 1/4 brick cheese, grated

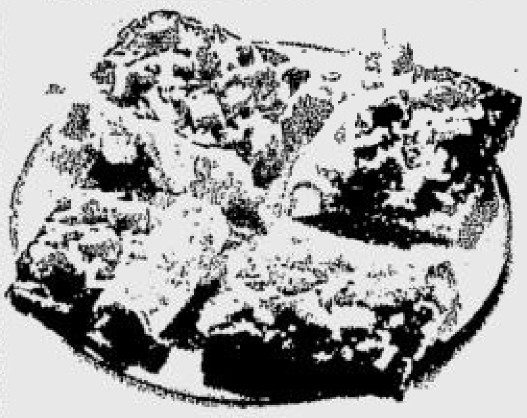
Fry bacon until crisp, then crumble. Set aside. Spread Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce on crusts. Top with cooked bacon and ground beef. Sprinkle grated cheese. Bake at 450°F for 10 mins. or until cheese melts. Serves 4 hungry kids. Yum!

Cost per serving: Php 13.50

EYES! EYES! BABY!
Did you know that 2 tablespoons of Papa Banana Catsup contain 100% Vitamin A RDA*? Kaya hindi lang masarap, healthy pa! (*For Kids 7-9 years old)







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*For every P100.00 purchase.

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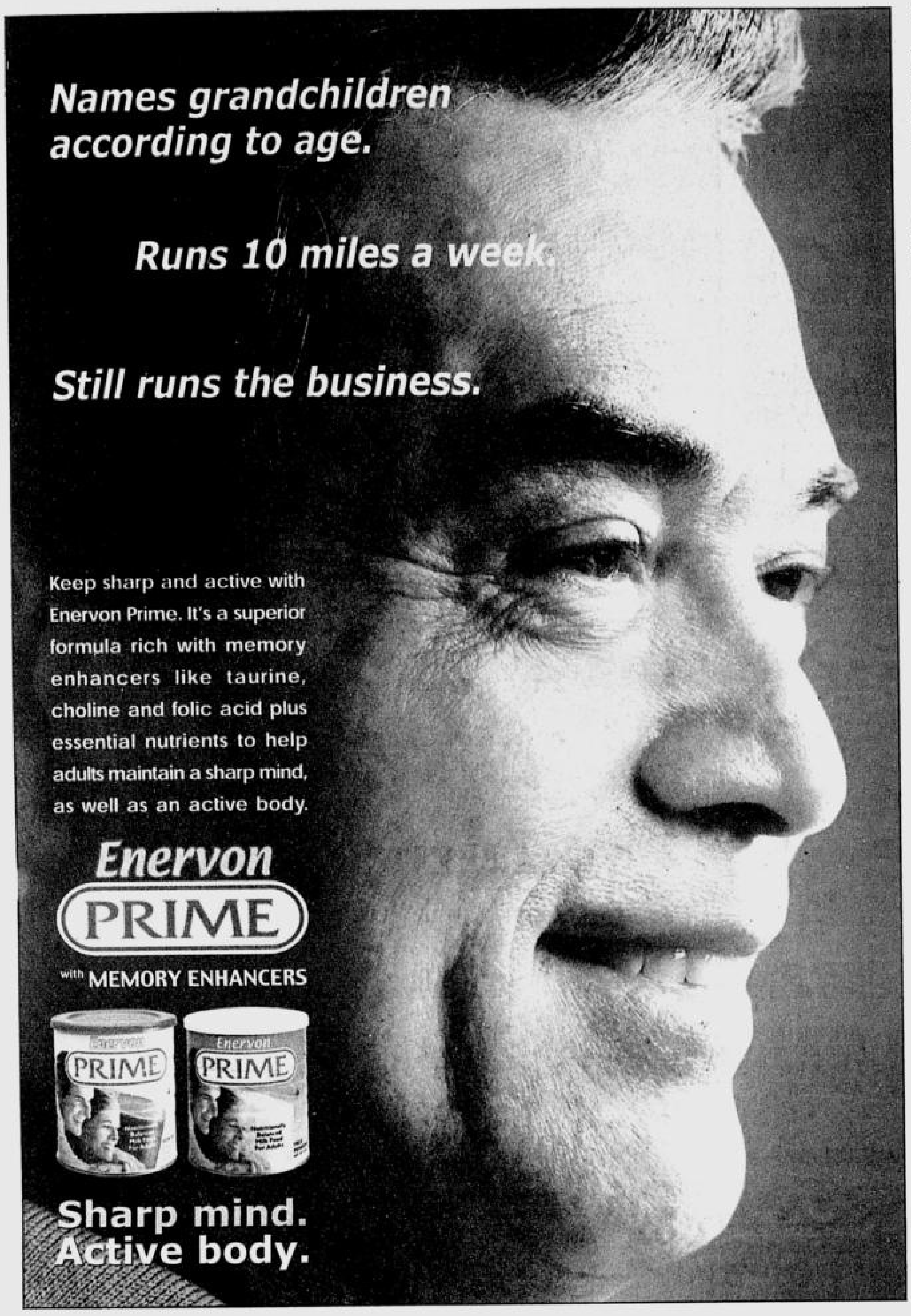
Rediscovering Lorenzo Mara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Enervon PRIME with MEMORY ENHANCERS

Sharp mind. Active body.

By Remy M. Umerez

MARA. Regal baby.

WHEN Maryo J. delos Reyes was casting "I Think I'm In Love," the director/talent manager had one person in mind to play Andrew, the elder brother of Piolo Pascual: former Regal baby Lorenzo Mara.

Bet

In the romantic comedy, Andrew is the type of a person whom Jonas (Piolo) secretly envies. He is a happily married man with a loving wife and kids. During a visit, the two brothers make a bet that Jonas can have a better relationship with women if he could be a good friend to them. If that happens, Jonas will surrender his Porsche to his brother and take an active role in running their farm.

Lorenzo belongs to the batch of Regal's Glamour Boys in the mid-'80s. Ricardo Cepeda was dubbed as the Body, Christopher Llanes was the "Looks" and Lorenzo was the "Voice."

He had his share of sexy roles, always photographed in his boxer shorts and romancing the likes of Kring Kring Gonzales or Maritoni Fernandez.

Supervising producer

A campy film Lorenzo fondly remembers is "The Secrets of Paula" which starred Alma Moreno and directed by Joey Gosengfiao, who is the supervising producer of the Regal filmfest entry, " I Think I'm In Love."

Lorenzo has appeared in about 15 movies and has been handled by directors like Ed Palmos, Mel Chionglo and Romy Suzara.

One movie he is very proud of is "Lucia," which gave him the rare opportunity of working with the great actress Lolita Rodriguez. Unfortunately, the movie was never shown commercially. It is being shown, though, on cable TV (Cinema One).

The last movie Lorenzo appeared in was a Cesar Montano starrer shown in 1997, in which the action-drama star played former press secretary Ruben Torres.

Lorenzo said the lack of a manager made it difficult for him to land movie assignments. Nor is he the type who would seek his mother's help, despite the fact that she knows some people in show business. His mom, Lollie Mara, has appeared in movies for various companies and is well-loved by the movie press.

Restaurant

The actor is busy managing a restaurant his family put up in Parañaque. It is called Two Tong and he hopes to open a branch in Quezon City soon.

Lorenzo has not left show business entirely, as he has managed to guest in drama series like "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap" or "Kasangga," which Maryo J. directs for GMA-7. He has remained in constant touch with the director, who is responsible for his comeback bid.

The role he plays in "I Think I'm In Love" is light, yet substantial. As the brother of Piolo, they have engaging scenes together. With Maryo J. as mentor and manager, Lorenzo looks forward to meaty characterizations, even playing "dark" characters.

Maryo J. observes that we have a shortage of actors playing character roles, similar to what Albert Martinez is doing. Lorenzo Mara is more than willing to help fill that gap.

Minogue on Star World

KYLIE Minogue stars in her very own musical extravaganza, "An Audience with Kylie Minogue," on Star World at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28. The special is full of unusual production numbers, one of them featuring Kermit the Frog!

Kylie performs her hit song and dance numbers, including cuts from new album, "Fever," and her new chart-buster, "Can't Get You Out of my Head."

Kylie also gets to wear a series of eye-catching costumes as exotic dancers gyrate to the delight of her celebrity audience.

Star World airs locally on both Sky and Home cable channels on Channel 25. The special will be replayed at 2:30 a.m. on May 29 and 8 a.m. on June 2.

The special is expected to draw many viewers because Minogue has become popular all over the world, with total record sales of 32 million units. She has cut eight albums, two Greatest Hits compilations, and 39 international singles.

Movies on HBO

Saturday, May 18 at 8 a.m., "I Dreamed of Africa: A True Story." 1:30 p.m., "The Patriot." 11 p.m., "Sex and the City Premiere Special": 49, "The Agony and the Ex-tacy," 50, "The Real Me."

Sunday, May 19 at 9 a.m., "Mask." 8 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." 9:45 p.m., "Charlie's Angels." 3 a.m., "Hefner: Unauthorized." 4:30 a.m., "Songs in Ordinary Time."

Monday, May 20 at 7:45 a.m., "The Natural." 10 a.m., "For Love of the Game." 12:30 p.m., "The Hunt for Red October." 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." 11 p.m., "Christina Aguilera: My Reflection" (concert).

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 a.m., "Baby." 3:30 p.m., "Picnic." 8 p.m., "The Art of War." 10 p.m., "Sex and the City": 51, Defining Moments. 12:15 a.m., "Scent of A Woman."

Wednesday, May 22 at 3 p.m., "All I Want for Christmas." 9 p.m., "Erin Brockovich."

Thursday, May 23 at 3:15 a.m., "Blast from the Past." Friday, May 24 at 6:30 a.m., "Sirens." 8:15 a.m., "The Public Eye."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Feedback

From Mr. Loi Landicho of Rizal Village, Makati City: "A candidate in a recently-held beauty pageant was a standout. Gifted with a great physique complemented by an utter display of refinement on the catwalk, she made it to the semifinals. Then came the Q and A portion. Miss Candidate was shown a picture and was asked to comment on it:

Host: So, tell me what you see, and what you think about it.

Candidate: It is a tarsier. It is one of the most primate endangered species in the world.

(Tsk, tsk, tsk!)

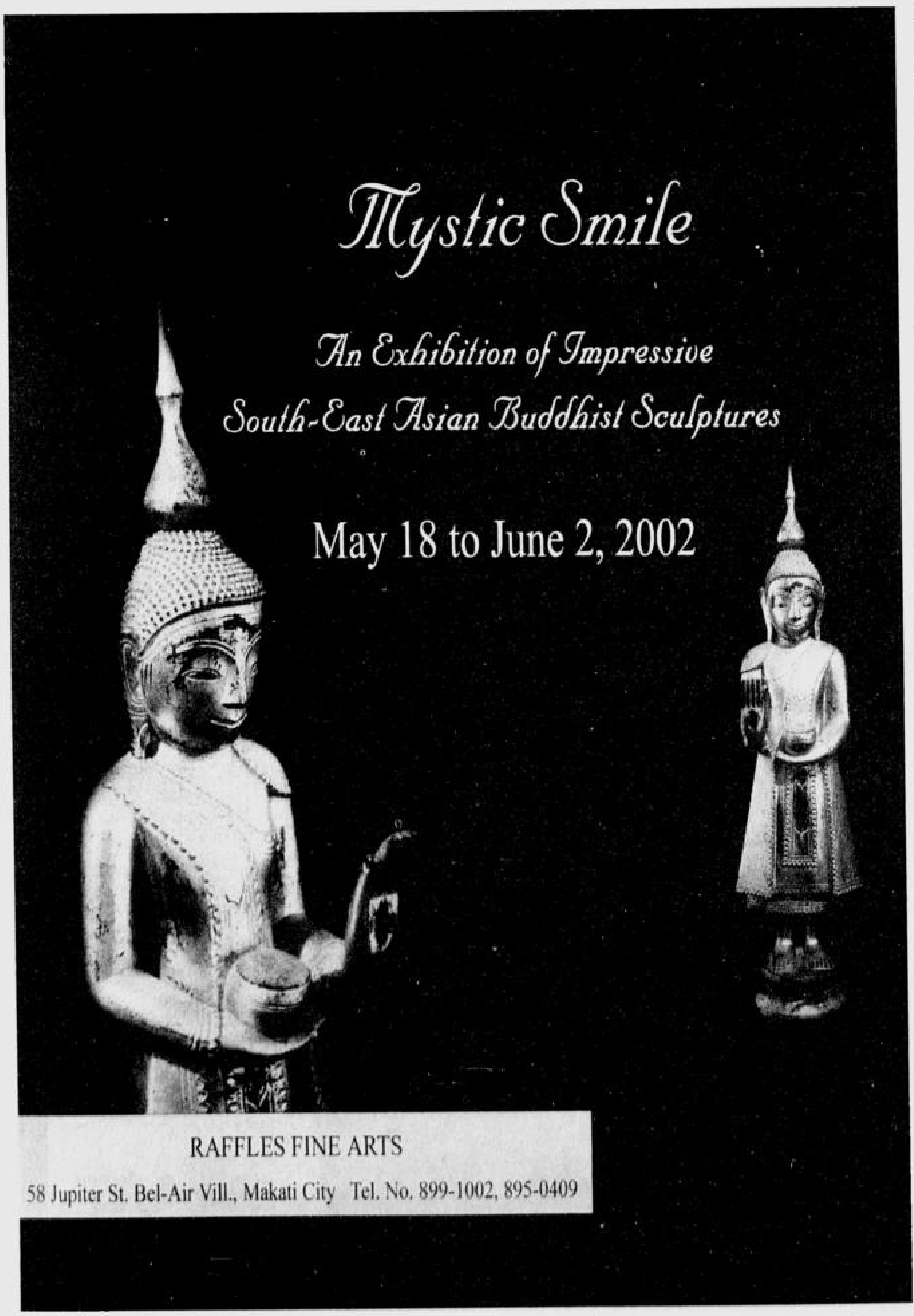
'In the Bedroom'

When Sissy Spacek won the Golden Globes Best Actress trophy for her performance in "In the Bedroom," we figured that the movie was so "artistic" that we wouldn't get to see it in our moviehouses. Happily, a distributor has made an exception in this case, and "In the Bedroom" will be shown in some Metro Manila theaters soon.

The film's story is rather simple: Matt and Ruth Fowler (Tom Wilkinson and Spacek) live a quiet life in a small town. Their 18-year-old son must decide whether or not to go off to college. In the interim, he has found love in the arms of a much older woman (Marissa Tomei), who has two young children by an abusive husband.

Ruth is apprehensive and wants her son to end the affair. Matt is more tolerant and overrules Ruth's forebodings. Then the unthinkable happens, shattering the indolence

VIEWFINDER/ p. D6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Rockers ditch hell-raising for the good life

From p. D1

about his surprisingly domesticated home life.

"The Osbournes" features the former Black Sabbath singer vacuuming the house, cuddling his pets and lecturing his children on good behavior.

Capping his reinvention as model citizen was an invitation to dinner at the White House from US President George W. Bush.

Then there's Mick Jagger, renowned for drug arrests and a long list of female conquests, who has transformed himself into a serious film producer, winning plaudits for his film "Enigma."

Bandmate

His Rolling Stones bandmate Keith Richards was the granddaddy of all rock'n'roll bad boys with an arrest record as long as his arm, for drug possession, assaults and even urinating in public.

He once said: "If you're going to kick authority in the teeth, you might as well use two feet." But in recent years, Richards has sloped off into law-abiding semi-retirement with a modicum of grace.

Blame it on age, says Ben Knowles, editor of the rock journal New Musical Express.

"I think it's inevitable they'll slow down as they get older. The people who don't tend to slow down—like Morrison or Hendrix--don't tend to get old."

But even younger rockers seem to be mellowing. Oasis singer Liam Gallagher, the leading wild boy of British rock for most of the 1990s, was renowned for his scuffles and scrapes with fans, the press and the law.

Despite an alleged attack on a bouncer in a trendy London bar last month, Gallagher seems to be settling into quiet domesticity with his pop star girlfriend Nicole Appleton and their baby son in a leafy London suburb.

Fast lifestyle

Knowles argues that plenty of bands--such as indie rockers The Strokes and The Dandy Warhols—are still living the fast lifestyle, but their behavior does little to shock a public accustomed to 40 years of rock-and-roll debauchery.

Added to that are industry demands on bands to promote themselves with grueling world tours. "Increasingly, being in a band is seen as a career decision," Knowles said.

"They have to work harder then they used to, it's not really possible for bands any more to be comatose and out of reach from their record labels, like Keith Richards and Jim Morrison used to be," says Knowles. *Reuters*

Expressions offers tips for a worry-free back-to-school shopping

Parents, you can avoid the hassles of shopping for your children's school supplies by following these tried-and-tested shopping tips:

Expressions Center for Learning [ExCel]

ExCel or Expressions Center for Learning was first opened to form part of the Expressions Isetann Cinerama Complex outlet in 1997. ExCel allowed Expressions customers to have easy access to the internet, avail of the desktop design and printing and even use the PC to prepare personal documents.

One of the pioneers to provide internet access to the general public, ExCel perfectly complements the Expressions merchandise mix. Being a school and office supplies store, Expressions wanted to complete the learning experience of its customers, which are mostly composed of students, by providing electronic access to information and communication. ExCel's desktop services and use of Personal computers also assist the students' assignments, reports and other requirements for class.

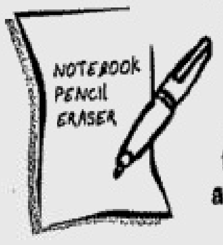
ExCel's services are currently available in selected Expressions stores Luzon-wide.

USPS
SKYNET
USPS-SKYNET
AVAILABLE INSIDE Expressions

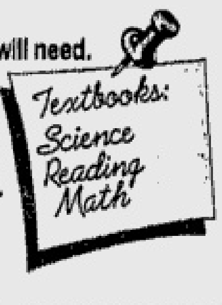
USPS-SKYNET and EXPRESSIONS TIE-UP

Expressions Stationery Shop, Inc. recently signed an agreement with Skynet International Express to offer USPS-SKYNET INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS courier services of mail, documents or parcel in Expressions' retail stores. This new partnership will mean an addition to Expressions' services line which currently includes photocopying and desktop printing that perfectly complement its affordable school and office supplies. The USPS-Skynet International Express' courier services include International services or USA-bound mail, documents and parcel and Domestic mail, documents and parcel delivery services.

The USPS-Skynet courier services were initially launched in ten (10) Expressions-owned stores located in Baliuag, Meycauayan, Tandang Sora, Malinta, Novaliches, Ever Commonwealth, Mart One Olongapo, Mart One Lipa , Mart One San Fernando, La Union and in ExCel Pedro Gil. Both companies plan to launch the courier service in the remaining 32 stores of Expressions by year-end 2002.



Make a list of what your children will need by starting with the basics, such as pad papers, quiz pads, pencils and pens, art supplies, erasers, sharpeners, and the like. It's easier to shop when you have a list to guide you. It's also always better to have a stock of these basic items so you can avoid the unavoidable rise of prices.

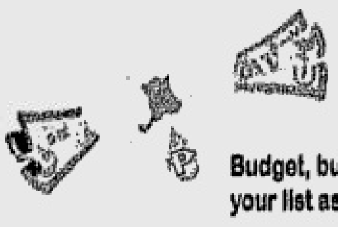


Get a list of textbooks your children will need. Most schools give a list even before enrollment day. You may also inquire from students who have passed through that grade.

Schedule your shopping exclusively for school supplies so that you don't have to unnecessarily rush. If possible, avoid bringing the kids along, except if they can be depended upon to help carry the bags. Remember: shop as early as possible.

BEWARE
of
pickpockets

Be safety-conscious. Carry your cash in your pockets (just make sure they don't have holes). If you need to bring a handbag, clutch it closely to your body to discourage snatchers and pickpockets.



Budget, budget, budget. And stick to it, and to your list as well.

After shopping, head home. This way you won't have to carry your purchases around. This is also to avoid forgetting them in some place you stop by, as well as to prevent being robbed, especially in crowded food courts or fastfood outlets.

Know which school and office supplies store you can find the supplies you need. All Expressions stores carry all school supplies your children will need, and with promo offers that give you big savings.

Expressions
ENTRANCE

Last but not the least, check out the nearest Expressions so you know where to go when you shop. There's always a branch near you.

Expressions of Delight

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ANIMALS Are Our FRIENDS
IN THE FARM
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Crayola CRAYONS 8
BEST WISHES

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Ur thoughts Ur feelings Ur Expressions

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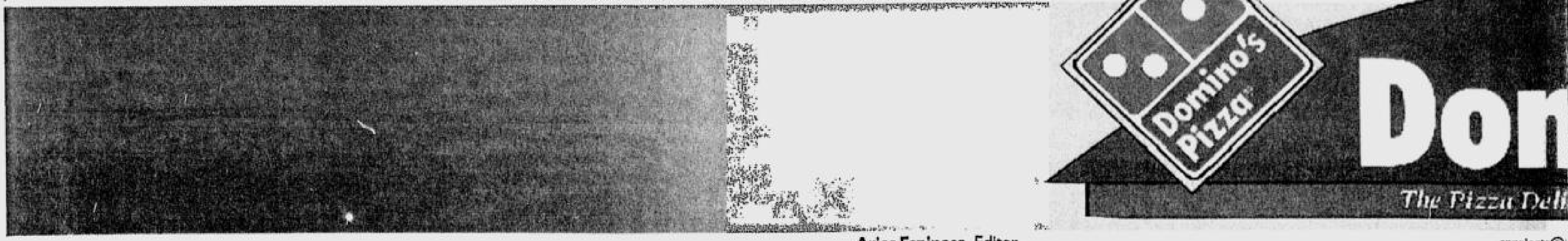
www.expressions.com.ph



Aries Espinosa, Editor
sprojects@i

DOMINO'S PIZZA PHILIPPINES

Setting the benchmark in delivering hot and fresh pizza...*fast!*

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IN A country defined by a fast-paced working environment and busy family households, the preference for convenient food is highly inevitable.

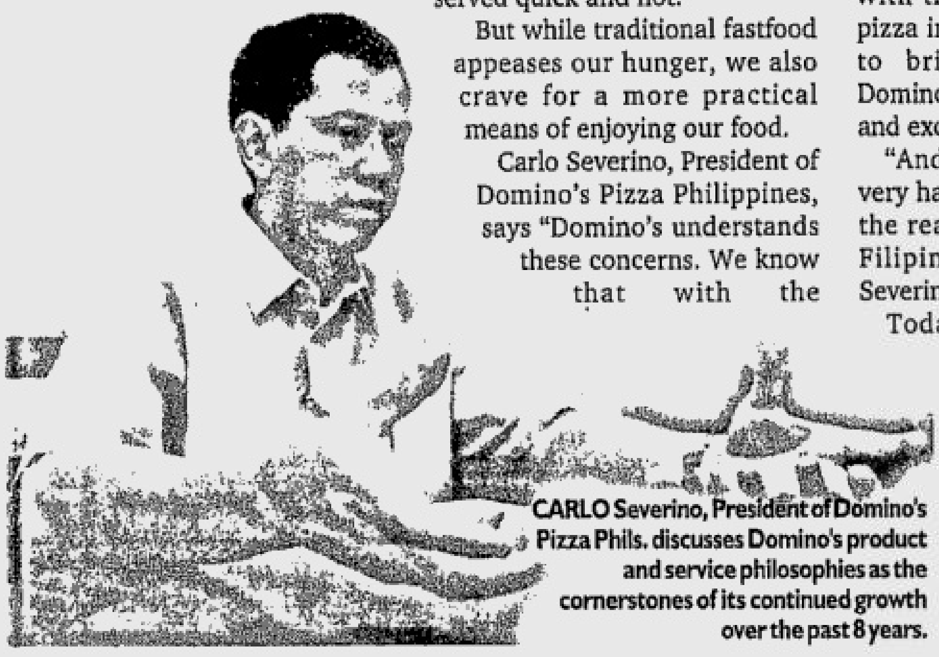
Either at home or at work, whenever Filipinos think of food, we never fail to come up with a long list of choices – from burgers, pastas, pastries, homemade food in *carinderias* to well-loved pizzas. One thing is certain though, we all want our food served quick and hot.

But while traditional fastfood appeases our hunger, we also crave for a more practical means of enjoying our food.

Carlo Severino, President of Domino's Pizza Philippines, says "Domino's understands these concerns. We know that with the Filipinos' changing lifestyle and food taste, consumers seek a new way of food servicing – Fast Food Delivery Service. With this, and with the growing demand for pizza in the market, we decided to bring into the country Domino's expertise in pie making and exceptional delivery services.

"And it was a success! We're very happy to have been serving the real taste of fresh pizza to Filipinos for 8 years now", Severino says.

Today, the demand for Fast Food Delivery Service has increased as the pizza market has grown to be a staple food choice in every family gathering and friendly get-togethers.



CARLO Severino, President of Domino's Pizza Phils. discusses Domino's product and service philosophies as the cornerstones of its continued growth over the past 8 years.

Always hot and fresh!

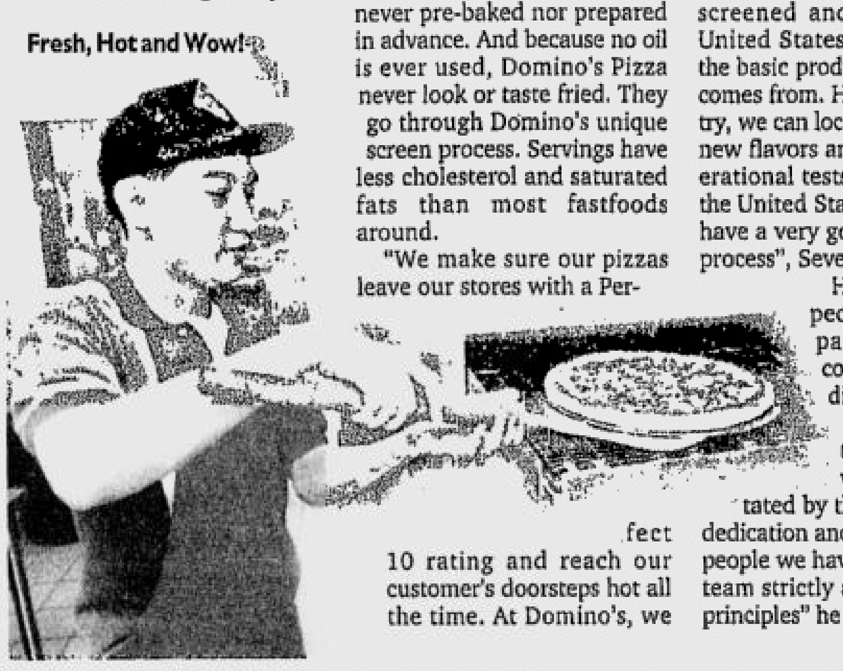
DOMINO'S Pizza believes that great pizzas are made from the start. Everything begins with the freshest and highest quality ingredients possible. To ensure the utmost in freshness, pizzas are only made the minute the order is called in – never pre-baked nor prepared in advance. And because no oil is ever used, Domino's Pizza never look or taste fried. They go through Domino's unique screen process. Servings have less cholesterol and saturated fats than most fastfoods around.

"We make sure our pizzas leave our stores with a Perfect 10 rating and reach our customer's doorsteps hot all the time. At Domino's, we don't take any second chances. That is why we have invested in a very good system. All of our products are accredited, screened and tested in the United States where most of the basic product development comes from. Here in the country, we can localize some of the new flavors and products. Operational tests are all done in the United States. I can say we have a very good product and process", Severino explains.

He adds that the people of the company are also the company's most indispensable asset.

"At the end of the day, the service level is dictated by the commitment, dedication and the skills of the people we have. The Domino's team strictly adheres to these principles" he says.

Fresh, Hot and Wow!



The 12-minute Carry-Out Challenge and the 30-minute Delivery Guarantee

ENTERING the fast food industry in the early '90s, Domino's Pizza bravely faced up to a very competitive market by launching "fast" and "on-time" servicing with 12-minute carry-out and 30-minute guaranteed delivery services.

"At Domino's, we guarantee 30 minutes delivery or less, otherwise the customer gets a P100 cash card which he can use on his next pizza order. While for walk-in customers, we assure carry-out within 12 minutes or less or your pizza's absolutely free!" says Germin Espino, general manager of Domino's Pizza.

Espino adds "topping off these guarantees is the Product Satisfaction Guarantee. We make sure that we make our customers happy and that we satisfy their needs. If the customer is not in any way satisfied with his pizza, we can either replace the product or refund his money with no questions asked."

"Domino's takes pride in having established stores that are built to facilitate fast and efficient product servicing. We call it Heightened Time Awareness. It's a corporate culture that we strictly observe, as we are highly committed to delivering quality service to our customers. This is also the very reason why Domino's is known worldwide as the pizza delivery experts," he stressed.

Espino is also quick to point out Domino's contribution to the industry.

"We have pioneered and strengthened the delivery service in the country. Aside from that, we also brought into the industry innovations which our competitors have taken into their system. Foremost of which is the delivery commitment to customers. Likewise, we have also introduced innovations in packaging, the box that we use, which is very essential because it preserves the freshness of our products as it gets to the customer's doorsteps. When you actually open the pizza box, you can smell, feel the freshness and heat of the product," he adds.

GUARANTEED
30
MINUTE
DELIVERY

TAKE OUR
12 MINUTE
CARRY-OUT
CHALLENGE
Covers up to 5 items per carry-out order

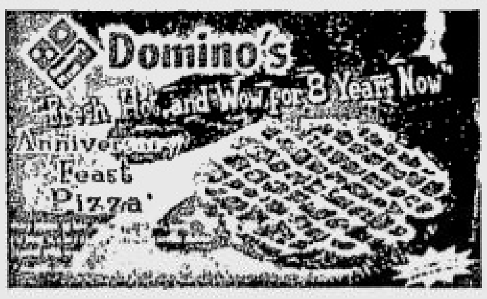
8 years and looking ahead

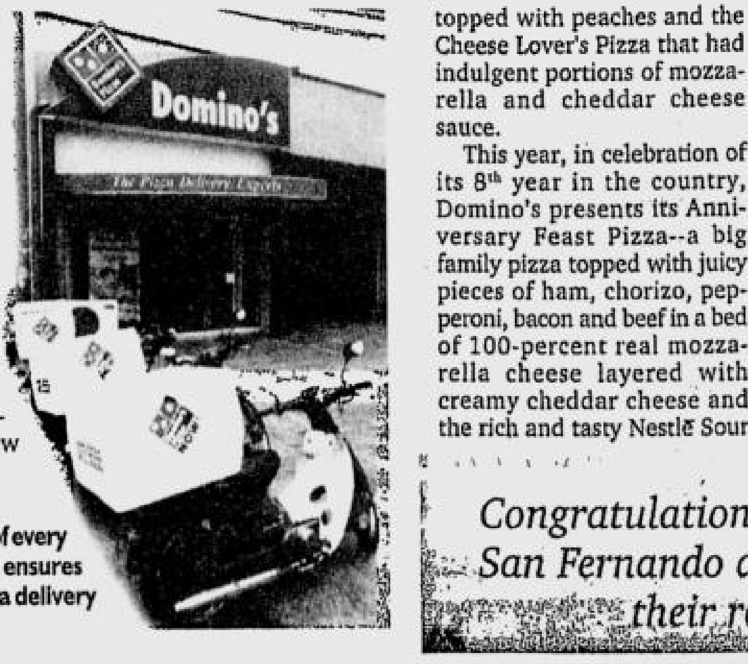
ESPINO says, "We owe our eight years in the market to our valued customers who continue to love and enjoy our products and services."

He further stressed that during those eight years, Domino's relied on its most important resources—system, products and people. With a world standard system, high-quality product and a dedicated team, Domino's has emerged as the top-of-mind choice among pizza lovers in the country.

Severino added that Domino's will continue to perfect its delivery service and carry on its product development and innovation. Its efforts in the coming years are geared towards leading the pizza delivery service in the Philippines by establishing Domino's Pizza as the country's premier pizza delivery specialist who consistently brings hot and fresh pizza fast to delighted customers.

Widely renowned the world over as the pizza delivery experts, with more than 7,100 Domino's stores in 66 countries worldwide, and to date with 2,292,000 pizzas sold in the Philippines backed with exceptional products and services, Domino's Pizza-Philippines has definitely given a new meaning to Pizza!





THE EFFICIENT set-up of every Domino's pizza store ensures fast on-time pizza delivery

Fun and exciting products and activities

OVER the years, Domino's has continued to make itself appealing to countless hearty appetites with its 10 sumptuous pizza variants: Ole, Meatzza, Hawaiian, De Luxe, Pepperoni Feast, Spicy Tuna, Bacon Cheeseburger, Amore, Veggie and Domino's certified bestseller Extravaganza with 9 toppings together with four tasty selections of side items: apple crumble, potato tots, baked spaghetti, wild wings, and three uniquely made dips of Nestlē Sour Cream, cheese sauce and tangy tomato.

And with Domino's endless ideas, they extended their pie expertise by coming up with a variety of pizza flavors during seasonal celebrations like Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's.

There was the Pesto Crust Pizza for those who loved the zesty taste of Italian cuisine, the Festival Pizzas which was topped with peaches and the Cheese Lover's Pizza that had indulgent portions of mozzarella and cheddar cheese sauce.

This year, in celebration of its 8th year in the country, Domino's presents its Anniversary Feast Pizza--a big family pizza topped with juicy pieces of ham, chorizo, pepperoni, bacon and beef in a bed of 100-percent real mozzarella cheese layered with creamy cheddar cheese and the rich and tasty Nestlē Sour Cream together with a cool refreshing 1.5xl Coke.

Espino says, "It's our treat to our valued customers who have loved Domino's pizza for the past eight years. And there's more, as we will also be offering an 80-percent discount on your second pizza purchase whenever you buy our Anniversary Feast Pizza from May 17 to 19, 2002 only."

Innovating further, Domino's has also successfully created a twist to its pizza variants by adding the all-time favorite—Nestlē Ice Cream to its special promotions.

"We guaranteed our pizzas hot and fresh, plus we promised that you'll enjoy the Nestlē Ice Cream in our promotions delivered rock-hard. And we've effectively delivered!" Severino added. "While Domino's is known worldwide as the pizza delivery experts, it has proven as well that it can perfect the art of delivering ice cream to its customers."

Pizza lovers clearly took delight in celebrating the Christmas holidays with Nestlē Finale Ice Cream Cake, the love month with Nestlē February Flavor of the Month, Choco Cookie Cheesecake and to beat the scorching heat this summer with different flavors of Nestlē Ice Cream Supreme together with Domino's Fun Floater.

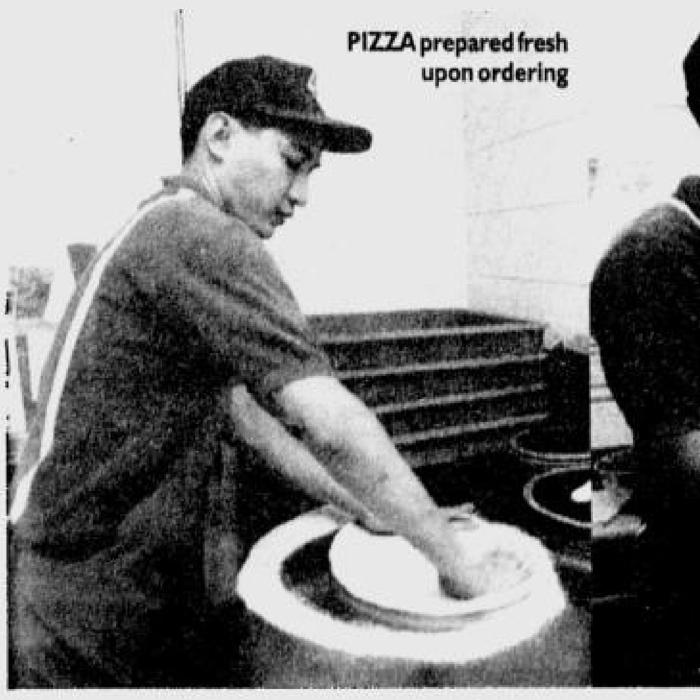
"Domino's pizza, a side item like potato tots, a premium item together with Nestlē Ice Cream and a Coke—it was definitely a complete meal! We're very happy with our customers' response," he says.

Clearly, Domino's never runs out of exciting offers!

And aside from coming up with new products and promotional activities, Espino says Domino's is also very much active in community relations.

"While fulfilling our role as an active player in delivering quality products and exceptional services, we are also highly committed to community development. Domino's has been regularly working hand-in-hand with various orphanages and social civic organizations. We believe that our success in the industry lies in our customers and in continuously sharing our resources with the less fortunate," he added.

Congratulations to Domino's Pizza Makati Avenue, San Fernando and Dagupan for recently celebrating their respective store anniversaries

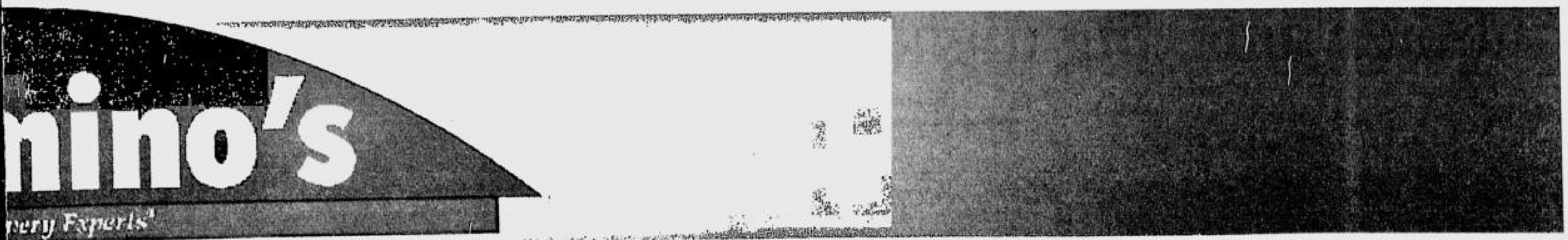


PIZZA prepared fresh upon ordering

EXPERT pizza makers prep the dough

DOMINO'S traditional all-imported pizza sauce made from plump red tomatoes and select herbs and spices

ONLY the freshest quality toppings with 100-percent real mozzarella cheese



nquirer.com.ph

Lita Pascual, Account Manager

The Domino's connection in Pampanga

By Raquel Gomez
Photos by Romy Homillada

"THE PIZZA here tastes better than the pizza at home," comments a blond-haired male expatriate while eating a Domino's pizza.

The comment reflects the increasing popularity of Domino's Pizza among the residents here, which over the years have become dynamic and diverse with the migration of people of different nationalities.

In fact, the Domino's Pizza outlet here, located at the City Terminal Building on Fields Avenue, has been one of the top-selling outlets for the past several months.

Store manager Dante Deang says that the expats aren't the only ones who regularly eat at Domino's—the locals too have become loyal patrons.

"We are able to capture the local customers, who are very happy to have Domino's here. The bulk of customers are really from the local community and the expats living here are just on the tip of the sales," says Deang.

Deang says that currently enjoying the No. 1 spot in Domino's sales chart doesn't come in like a breeze. It took the whole Domino's staff, numbering about 17, to accomplish such a feat.

The phenomenal sales, says Deang, is due mainly to a good teamwork exhibited by his staff. "We have the best team in town. Our service is top-rate, we have excellent promotions and the management supports us and we enjoy regular assistance from the head office. An area manager, Bong Abadilla, visits us regularly to help map out sales-generating strategies and plans. He likewise ensures that the urgent needs of the Domino's Pizza Balibago Team are promptly addressed by head office."

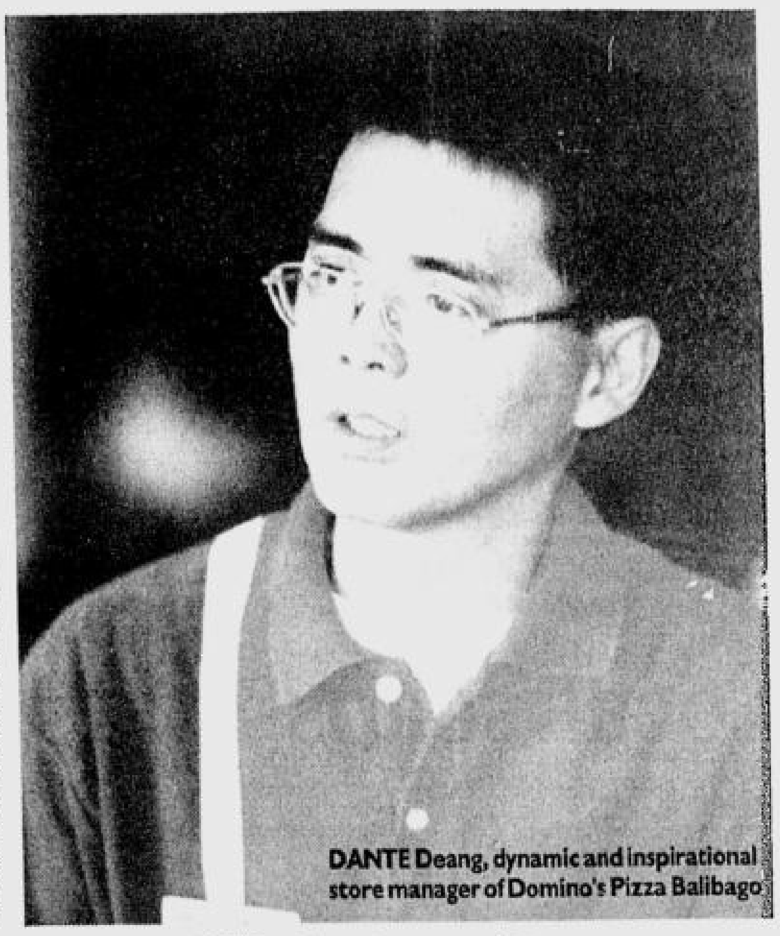
There are seven riders or delivery drivers who ride on motor bikes on Deang's staff. Even if the places of delivery in Balibago are relatively far compared to Manila, the riders can deliver within the 30 minutes delivery guarantee.

Leonor Infante, president of Charlie's Pizza Inc., owner of the Domino's franchise in Balibago, says Domino's sales in the area are "exceptional" and it's one of the best businesses in Pampanga. Infante, herself a migrant to Angeles and has established a string of businesses here, says Domino's is the best pizza to come to Pampanga.

"People here are open to new things," says Infante. "When we started selling Domino's in 1998, the residents here accepted the new product. They like it very much."

Infante, who has lived in Balibago for 22 years and has already fallen in love with the community, is all praises of the accomplishment of Deang and the Domino's crew.

The pizza that conquered the diverse culture of Capampangans and expatriates in Balibago



DANTE Deang, dynamic and inspirational store manager of Domino's Pizza Balibago

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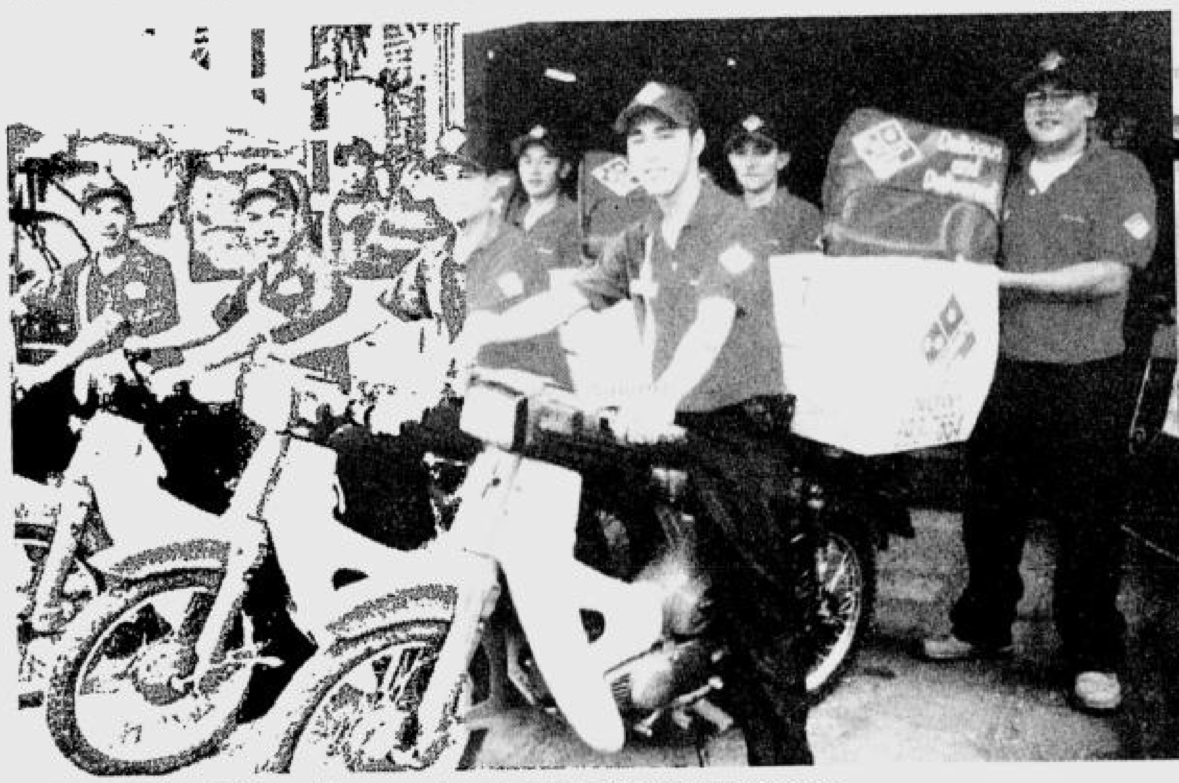

DOMINO'S Pizza Balibago drivers...ready and raring to delight their customers

DOMINO'S Pizza Team Balibago proud to be number 1

Meet Domino's most loyal customer

By Joel V. Nigos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"I LOVE Domino's Pizza!", says Raymond Uy, Domino's most loyal customer

WHAT characters typify Domino's most loyal customer?

IT'S ALL in the family. Raymond enjoys his favorite Bacon Cheeseburger Pizza together with his brothers and sister

IS IT HIS habit to eat the crust, including the leftover crust of his siblings when they eat Domino's Pizza? Is it his frequency of ordering Domino's? Or is it his love of eating only Domino's Pizza and not any other?

"I have loved pizza, I think since birth. I have been destined to love pizza," says Raymond Uy, adjudged as Domino's most loyal customer, as he laughs with his siblings while sharing his favorite bacon cheeseburger pizza.

Youngest in a brood of four, Raymond, an incoming high school senior at La Salle Greenhills, is well-known by the staff of Domino's Pizza's outlet in Libis, what with his regularity of ordering pizza. He used to call that branch thrice a week to place orders. At times, even everyday.

He confesses that he used to buy another pizza brand.

"We discovered Domino's Pizza when we visited the States. A few months after we came back to the country, Domino's arrived here in the area. That was when we started patronizing Domino's," remembers Raymond who lives in Acropolis in Libis and who always likes to play the role of the game show host throwing trivia questions to his family every night over dinner.

He enumerates some of the reasons he prefers Domino's over other pizzas.

"I found the size of Domino's bigger than the other pizzas. The other pizzas I can consider small and expensive considering their size," relates Raymond who seemed to have mastered the details about pizza and pizza-eating.

He adds that he found the toppings of Domino's always evenly distributed while the others are not consistent.

"And what delights me most about eating Domino's is the crust. I usually eat the *tira-tira* (leftover) crust of my bros and sis. I like it very much. There's still the pizza taste in it. It's satisfying. The crust really tastes good, and it's not that big," he claims, adding that Domino's dough also tastes better than the other pizzas.

He used to add up extra cheese to his favorite bacon cheeseburger pizza. Lately, he prefers eating Ole and Amore. He loves Extravaganza because, according to him, it serves the whole family. He usually eats pizza along with his siblings.

"I also like the potato tots, the Nestlé Ice Cream and the Coke which they currently offer in their latest promo," he relates.

He says that promotions offered by Domino's usually influences him in buying more pizzas as it provides him more value for money.

"Sometimes it serves as my full meal, especially if I don't like the food on the table or when I get hungry and there's no food cooked yet. In school, I usually eat pizza only," says Raymond.

He says that he usually orders pizza during exam days and eats it while reviewing.

"It has become part of my system. I don't know, I think it helps me in my studies," he says laughing.

Raymond also loves the side items of Domino's like the apple crumble, spaghetti, chicken wings and the dips.

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Another amazing night with Ryan, Ogie and Carol

By Gloria P. Sicam

IT'S been awhile since I've seen Ogie Alcasid and Carol Banawa in concert, and it was the first time I'd seen them work together. Add to their combination one of the best composers in Philippine music, and you've got yet another Amazing Night from NBC.

It might not have been on purpose, but the third show in the Amazing Nights series was another A+B+C. The show before them was Anna Fegi + Bituin Escalante + Ryan Cayabyab. This time, it was Ogie Alcasid, Carol Banawa and of course, the common element in all those amazing nights, Mr. C.

OPM favorites

As usual, Mr. C warmed up the crowd with OPM favorites that the crowd could sing along with. I'm always amused by the way the audience is so ready to sing along with him. Here are people dressed to the nines, sipping wine and eating hors d'oeuvres, and they're singing "Let the Pain Remain" at the top of their lungs! Only Mr. C can make stuff like that happen.

This third show, it was OPM night. They brought out all the OPM songs they could get their hands on, including some really old songs from the '40s that 20-year-old Carol had to sing, even though she'd never heard them before. She did justice to *every* song she sang, however, in spite of flubbed lyrics every now and then. It was just her luck that she made up lyrics for songs I knew by heart. But it's okay, I don't think anyone else noticed. Because her face never flinched, and neither did her voice.

Carol's voice is clear as a bell—perfect and pure. But I think she might need a little more angst and a little less innocence as she grows as a singer in this business. Then again, she's only 20... there's a lot of time to grow and experience things to help her add emotion to her singing.

She reminds me of Lea Salonga in terms of the perfection of her voice. And it's also not *matinis*. It's as clear as running water, that's the best way I can describe it. She may not be a Regine with histrionics that go where only dogs will be able to hear her, but she's got a quality of her own that she can develop and make her trademark.

I think I have always underestimated Ogie, or at the very least, taken him for granted. Because when he started singing, it made me wonder why I've appreciated him only now. When he sang a medley of the songs he made, I didn't even realize he wrote them. Or just how deeply ingrained his songs are in pop culture. When he started singing "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," I found myself humming the girl part of the duet version made popular by Freestyle. Thank goodness, I didn't stand up and sing along with him!

ALCASID. *Hataw* factor.

BANAWA. Bell-like voice.

And Ogie's got a knack for impromptu stuff, talking to the audience comfortably, and making fun of them without really insulting them. He also teases gently, like an annoying younger brother or cousin you just can't help but love. He never stopped teasing Carol—*"Alam mo, ang galing-galing mo, kaso lang, 'ASAP' ka, e."*

And his voice . . . wow. Its expression, its ability to reach certain heights—I was floored. Ogie apparently has *hataw* factor as well.

Metropop winners

They opened the concert with a medley of Metropop winners. From lyrics like "J'taime, Te amo, I love you..." to "Basta't tayo'y magkasama, laging merong umagang kay ganda..." it was a celebration of Philippine song. It made me realize just how beautiful Tagalog is. Half of the time, I tried to translate the Filipino songs they were singing into English. It just wasn't as nice. Tagalog has a poetry all its own that expresses love in ways English can't. I envy people who can create lyrics like *"Asa ko'y wala naman kundi ang malaman mo/ mga pangarap ko ikaw, ikaw pa rin/Lihim ay di ko na ikakaila, minsan pa/At baka ang mangayri ay lumisan ka, ng minsan pa..."* The language is just so rich.

The entire evening was a tribute to Filipino music. They even had medleys of songs about "Ikaw." There are just so many OPM songs about "Ikaw." About "You." There was another portion of the show devoted to songs about "Rain" (because we all wish it would start raining, it's just way too hot these days) and "Sun" (because it's hard to ignore a sun *this* hot). This was their playtime,

ANOTHER/ p. D7

Local soaps and foreign telenovelas compared

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

ARE there no fundamental differences between our local soaps and their Latin American counterparts? Of course not, otherwise, why would we still be watching the latter? The virtue of Latin American soaps lies in their being foreign, but not *too* foreign.

As Inquirer columnist Conrado de Quiros puts it: "Filipino soaps are too familiar. American soaps are too alien. Latin American ones are neither."

Edge

Our local soaps may have taken the necessary steps to make sure that they snare more viewers, but they can never acquire the edge that Latin American soaps have, their occupation of the middle ground.

They possess the virtue of resembling real life, while not being an exact replica of it. The themes of all telenovelas are universal, which is why a wide range of audiences all over the world are able to identify with the situations in them. What's more, the "exotic" setting and characters make them more fascinating than the usual homegrown shows.

Telenovela themes might be cliched, but we mustn't forget that Latin America has been producing soaps for 40 years. They have four decades of experience and they know all the tricks of the trade to bring back to life a topic that's already been done to death.

Their scripts and characters manage to be not so predictable and they can still come up with some truly original plot twists. True, local soaps do that, too, but the point is that we've seen them all before. They're ours, they've become over-familiar.

Colonial mentality

Another element Latin American telenovelas have and that local soaps don't is a cast of mestizo and mestiza actors. Let's face it, we Filipinos have a mentality that has become even more colonial long after the period of colonization. (Historians say that, in truth, what we have now is the time of neo-colonization.)

Our standards for beauty—fair skin, high-bridged noses—in short, Western features—reflect this way of thinking. And Latin American telenovelas provide what local soaps can't—the fulfillment of our colonial ideal of beauty.

Dubbed

The fact that telenovelas are dubbed in Filipino serves to attract Pinoy audiences from all walks of life. The language is familiar, but the characters who "speak" it (with their mestizo features and foreign setting) are not, resulting in an intriguing balance.

What local soaps and Latin American telenovelas have in common, though, is the escape that they offer their viewers. They provide relief from the depressing facts of life in the Philippines (especially the foreign soaps with their exotic settings). And the eventual victory of the forces of good that all soap operas culminate in is something to be relished in a society where there is so little actual justice.

Minogue . . .

From p. D2

of summer.

The focus then shifts to Matt and Ruth, and shows how they are transformed by the unspeakable atrocity. Their suffering causes their real relationship to rise to the surface, revealing its cracks. In a scene of terrible emotional brutality, they finally confront their pain, resulting in an exchange of spiteful accusations against each other.

In the end, however, they realize that they have only each other to run to, and they must make it through this tragedy together. Yet, while they have come accept their loss, something must be done to ease their pain.

Choral and oratorical festivals

As part of the preparation for the fourth World Meeting of Families to be held in Manila from Jan. 22 to 26, 2003, the Council of the Laity of Manila is holding archdiocesan choral and oratorical festivals form June to December this year.

With "Christian Families: Evangelizers for the Third Millennium" as theme, the competitions will be held on the parish, vicariate and district levels, with the final round to be held on Dec. 7 for the oratorical contest, and Dec. 8 for the choral competition. Call CLM at 524-9720.

'Pasinaya 2002'

Popular entertainers will perform in Bel-Air Village's "Pasinaya 2002—Doon Po Sa Amin" fiesta celebration tonight at the village's covered court. Tonight's performers include A.K. Sam and Eric, the Aka Fellows, and the Rockin' Revival Band in a "Bakuran" jam session.

Tomorrow, May 18, dance the night away with music by Iggy de Guzman's 22-man orchestra, plus songs from musicals performed by Michael Williams and Rem Zamora. Call 897-1858.

New entertainment company formed

A new entertainment company, Trans Continental Records, Manila Inc., has been formed, with Lou Pearlman as chairman of the board. Pearlman created the popular groups N'Sync, Backstreet Boys, LOF and O-Town. President is Antonio M. Garcia, and directors include Joseph Chow, David DeCamillis, Tom Hynes and Deeda Garcia-Verzosa.

The company's thrust is to promote an exchange of talent between the East and the West. TCRM's first project was the promotion of Pearlman's latest find, Natural. Their single, "Put Your Arms Around Me" enjoyed extensive airplay on local radio stations.

'Star for A Night'

Competing on the talent search show, "Star for A Night" on IBC-13 at 8 tonight are Mylene de la Fuente, Ding Pionso, Ayla de Joya and Jacklyn Fernandez.

De la Fuente is a MusicEd graduate from the University of the Philippines. Pionso performed in last year's Metropop competition. De Joya is the grand champion of the National Panasonic Singing Contest 2001. And Fernandez is a former Little Miss Philippines contestant.

'40 Days and 40 Nights'

In the "no-sex" comedy, "40 Days and 40 Nights," Josh Hartnett seeks solace in sacrifice: a vow of abstinence for the 40 days of Lent. The female lead is played by a relative newcomer, Shannyn Sossamon.

The two leads have the difficult task of sustaining an intense love affair throughout the film without even kissing. They were also required to create a beautiful scene where they make love with a flower, but never touch.

MINOGUE. A star in her own right.

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Another amazing night . . .

From p. D6

and it was my favorite part of the show. As nice as it is to hear them belt their lungs out, it's also good to see Mr. C have fun with his talents.

Another "amazing" moment was their "encore"—they sang a medley of two songs—"Limang-Dipang Tao" and "Swerte-Swerte Lang." It was quite difficult, because at one point, they were singing the two songs at the same time, and the tunes sounded like they were clashing *and* blending at the same time. It would've been so easy to go out of tune, but they both stuck to their assigned songs. It was great.

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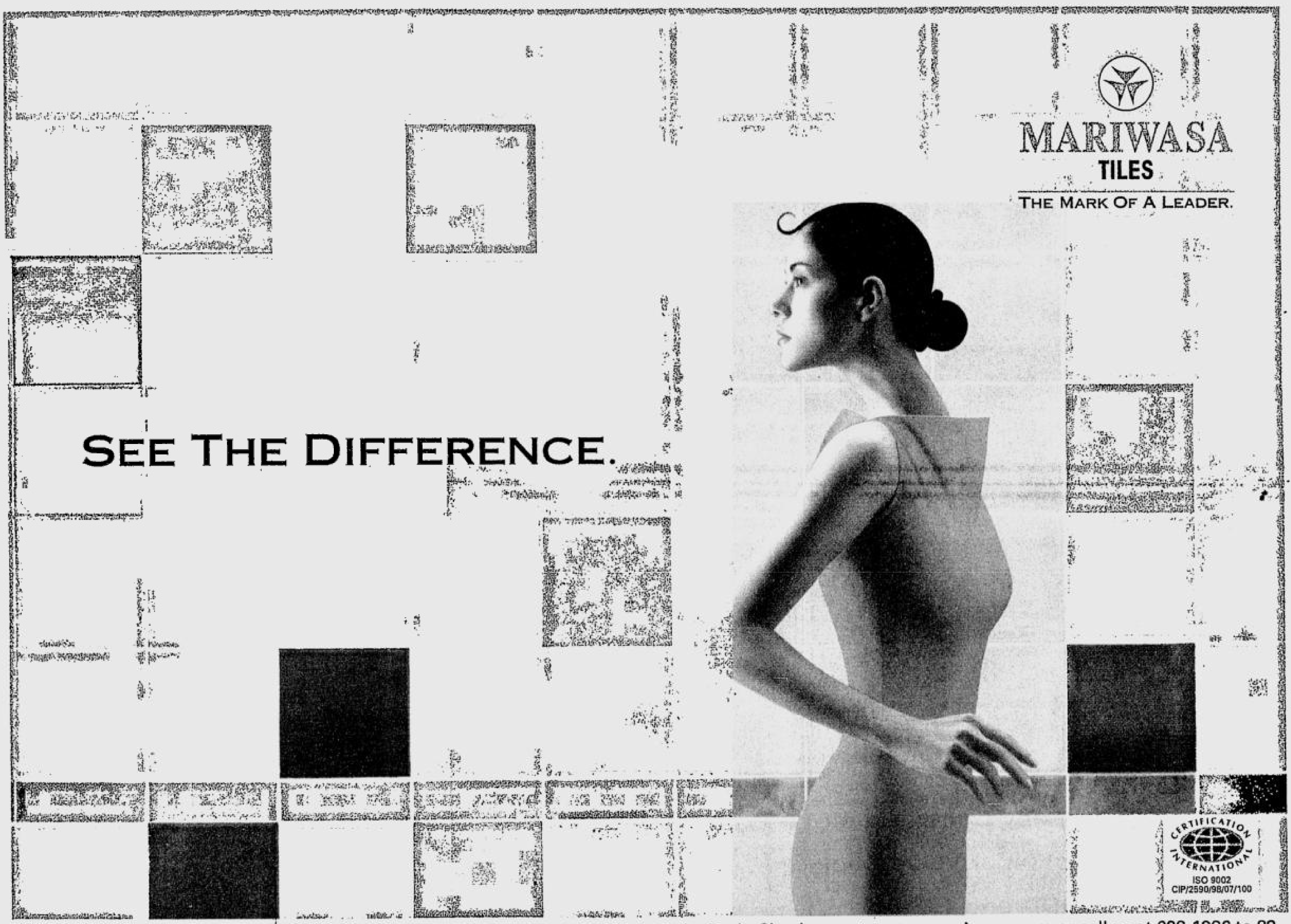
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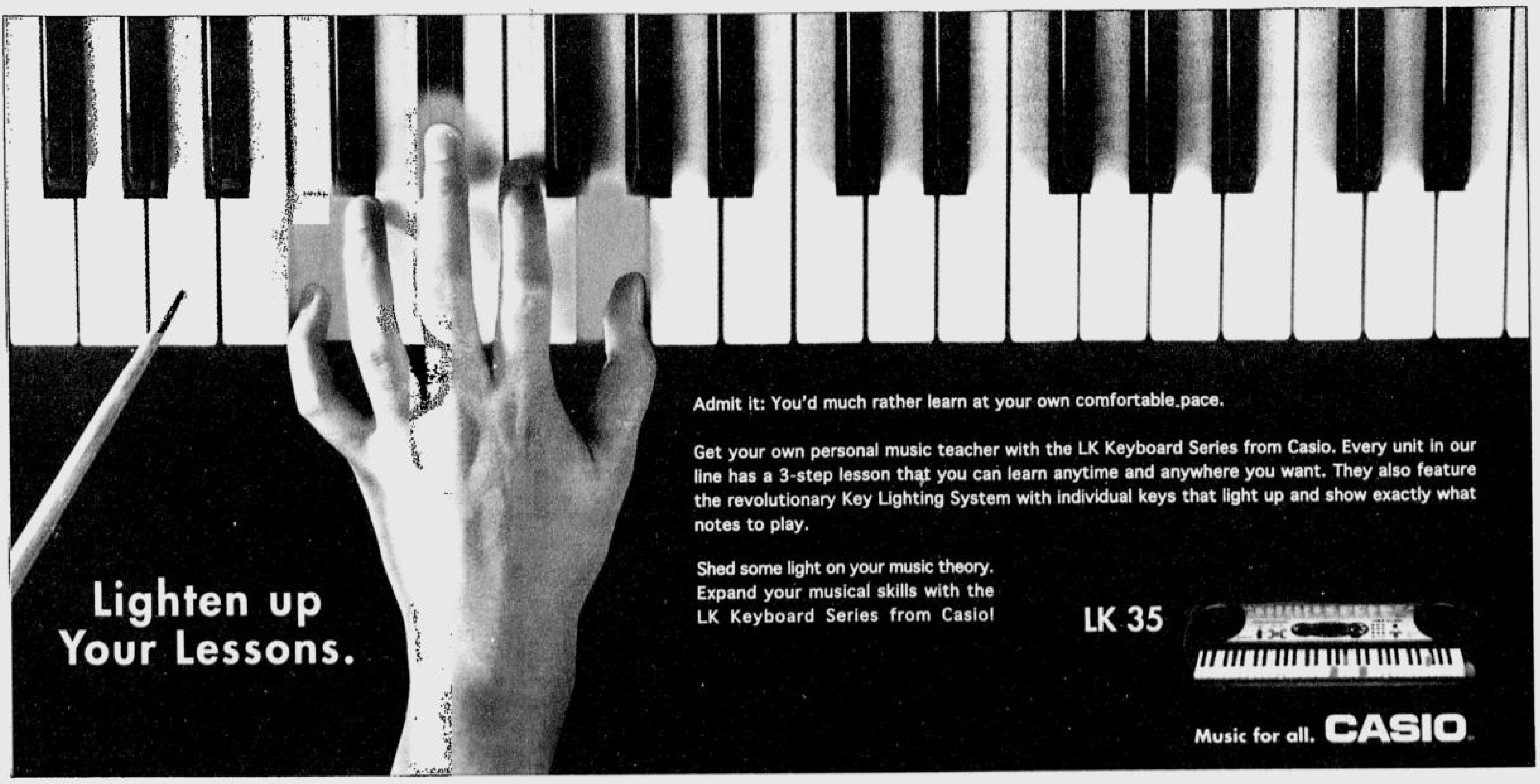
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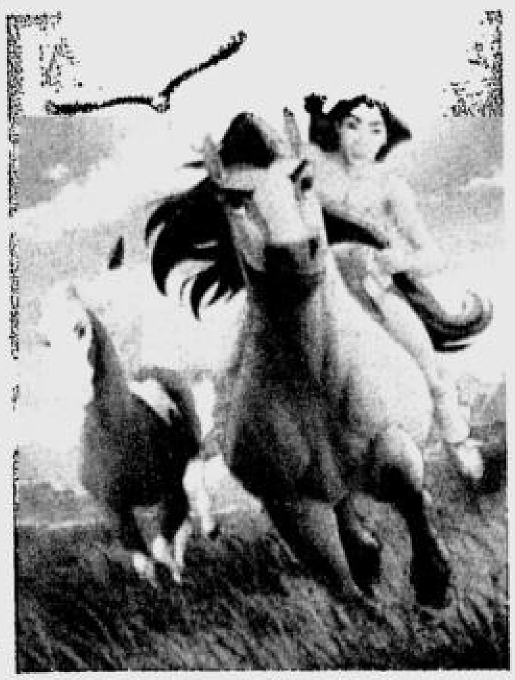
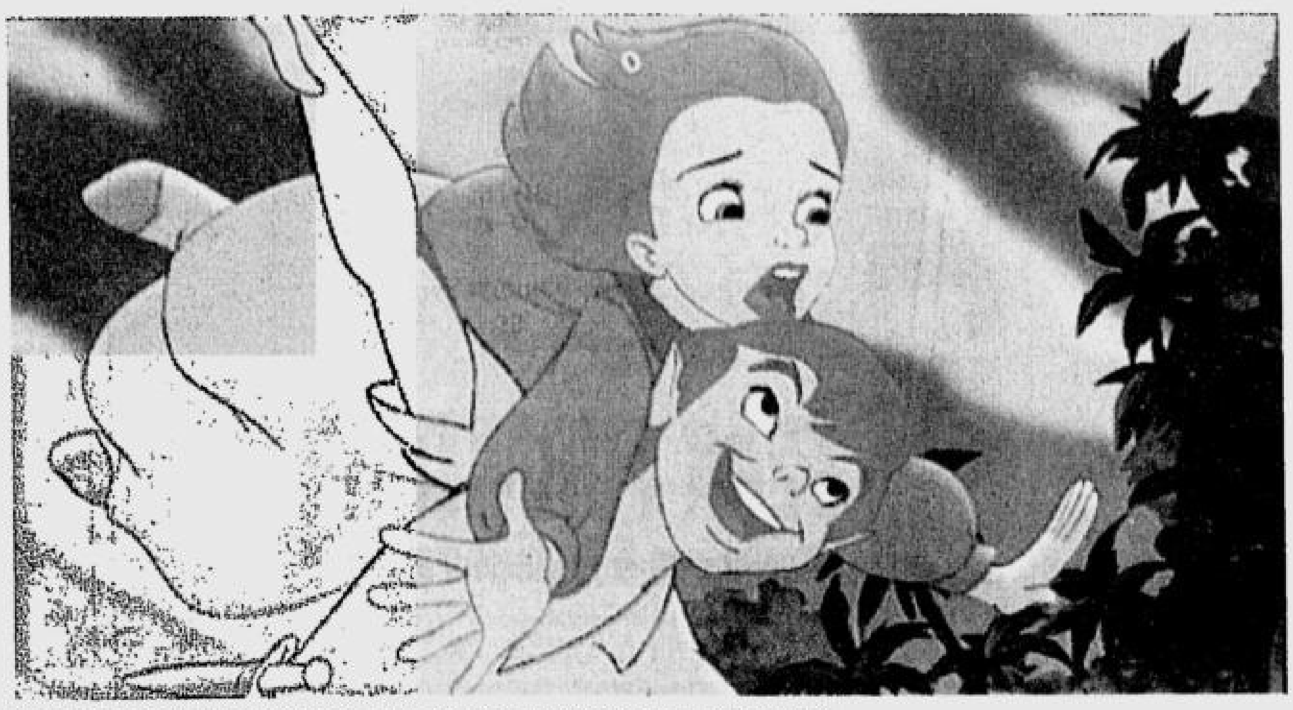
New animated features make their bid for viewers' patronage

By Nestor U. Torre



"SPIRIT." The young stallion with his mare and his human friend, Little Creek.



"RETURN TO NEVERLAND." Goes back to the spirit of the animated original.

FILM year 2001 was a landmark season for animated feature films. DreamWorks' "Shrek" won the first-ever Oscar for full-length animated movies *and* earned mega-millions at the box office. Disney's "Monster, Inc." was another "monster" hit.

Triumphs

These triumphs have motivated producers to go into animation in a big way, and two of their new productions are "Return to Neverland" and "Spirit."

Disney's "Return to Neverlan" is the sequel to "Peter Pan," which was done in animation way back in 1953. Since then, the legend has been presented onstage, and done as a live-action movie. "Return to Neverland" goes back to the spirit of the animated original.

This time around, Peter Pan's friend, Wendy, who joined him in his flying adventures, has grown up and is in fact the mother of two. She has filled her children's heads with fantastic stories of the wonderful time she spent in Neverland, so they can hardly be blamed if they want to go there themselves.

Imaginative yearnings

But the times are hardly right for such imaginative yearnings. Europe is being torn by war, and London itself is being rocket-bombed by the Germans.

For its part, Neverland itself is rocked by strife, with nasty Captain Hook still bent on foiling Peter, Tinkerbell and their friends.

To put Peter on the defensive, Hook kidnaps Wendy's children and spirits them away, back to Neverland, to lure Peter out into the open, so he can finally be trapped and conquered.

Feisty

It's a good thing that Wendy's daughter, Jane, turns out to be as feisty and smart as her mother, so Hook has a hard time achieving his nefarious objective.

Meanwhile, DreamWorks' "Spirit" follows the adventures of a wild and rambunctious mustang stallion as he canters through the untamed American frontier.

Encountering man for the first time, Spirit refuses to be broken, even as he develops a unique friendship with a young Latoka brave named Little Creek. The young stallion also finds love with a beautiful mare named Rain on his way to becoming one of the unsung animal heroes of the Old West.

"Spirit, Stallion of the Cimarron" strikes us as a cross between the animal focus of "The Lion King" and the Native-American flavor of "Pocahontas."

Traditional values

Aside from being an adventure tale, it also seeks to inspire viewers, particularly the youth, to regain the love and respect for nature and traditional values that have fallen by the wayside as a result of ulra-modernity and hyper-technology.

Matt Damon voices the first-person narration for the title character. Other voice actors in the production are James Cromwell as a Cavalry colonel determined to break the will of the defiant mustang, and Native-American actor Daniel Studi as Little Creek.

The production prides itself in its "seamless" integration of traditional animation and computer image-generation techniques, a difficult feat to pull off.

Personal touch

Producer Jeffrey Katzenberg observes that animation by hand provides a human, personal touch that computers still haven't been able to approximate. Some people think that the computer is the nemesis of traditional animation, but he begs to differ.

"What I wanted to do with this film was to take hand-drawn animation and 'marry' it with state-of-the-art technology to create a film that is the best of both worlds," he says.

He calls this fusion of old and new "tradigital" animation. This "synergistic artistry" is seen as "Spirit's" major contribution to the ongoing development of the modern animated feature.

Oscar winner Berry sees British musical off with a bang

LONDON—Best actress Oscar winner Halle Berry attended the stage musical premiere of classic children's film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" in London's West End late on Tuesday.

Audience

Joining her in the audience at the London Palladium was James Bond star Pierce Brosnan--who along with Berry is shooting the 20th secret agent epic due for release in November.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," like the Bond films, originates from a book by Ian Fleming.

It tells the story of eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, who makes a flying car which takes him and his family to the faraway kingdom of Vulgaria, where children are outlawed.

Dick Van Dyke played the original Potts in the 1968 film that gave a generation of children sleepless nights at the thought of the childcatcher, played on stage by Richard O'Brien, famous for writing and starring in "The Rocky Horror Show."

Stunning special effects

The musical uses stunning special effects to make the car appear as if it were flying off the stage and soaring over the heads of the audience.

Costing 6.2 million pounds to stage, the show is set to be the West End's most expensive British production.

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SATURDAY*Special*

'Thoroughly Modern Millie' tops Tony nominations

By Larry Fine

LINNEY. Nominated as Best Actress for "The Crucible."

NEW YORK—For the second year in a row, a musical comedy based on a hit movie led the nominations for US theater's most prestigious awards, as "Thoroughly Modern Millie" received 11 Tony Award nominations on Monday.

Rip-roaring success

"Thoroughly Modern Millie," adapted from the 1967 movie, followed on the rip-roaring success of last year's smash, "The Producers," the Mel Brooks creation based on his 1968 movie, which grabbed 15 nominations on its way to a record 12 Tonys.

"Morning's at Seven," a comedy about small-town America in 1922 that ran for only 44 performances when it first opened on Broadway in 1939, led the nomination race for plays with nine, including five for members of its brilliant, ensemble cast.

Elizabeth Franz, Estelle Parsons and Frances Sternhagen were all listed for best performance by a featured actress in a play, while fellow cast members William Biff McGuire and Stephen Tobolowsky were nominated as featured actors.

"No big surprises," said Jed Bernstein, president of the League of American Theaters and Producers. "There were three big musicals that got most of the nominations and a surfeit of plays this season that make for an interesting race."

Revival

Musicals corralled the most nominations, with the revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Into

THOROUGHLY/ p. E3

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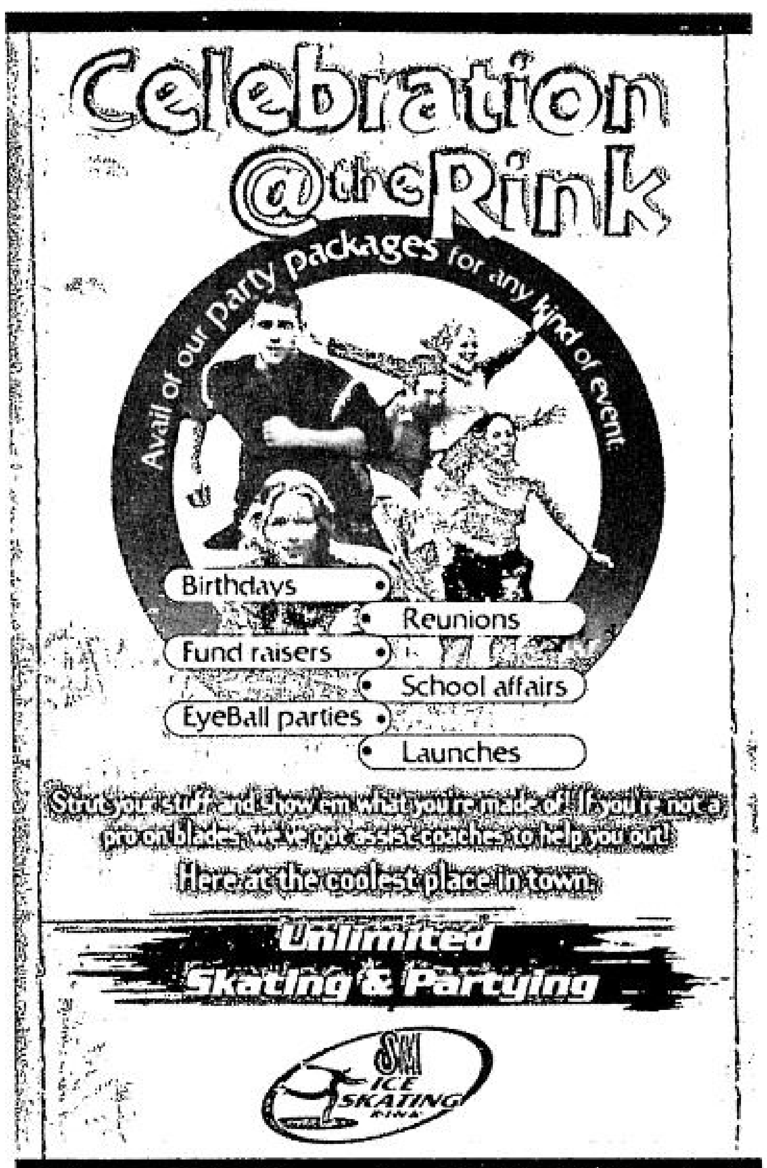

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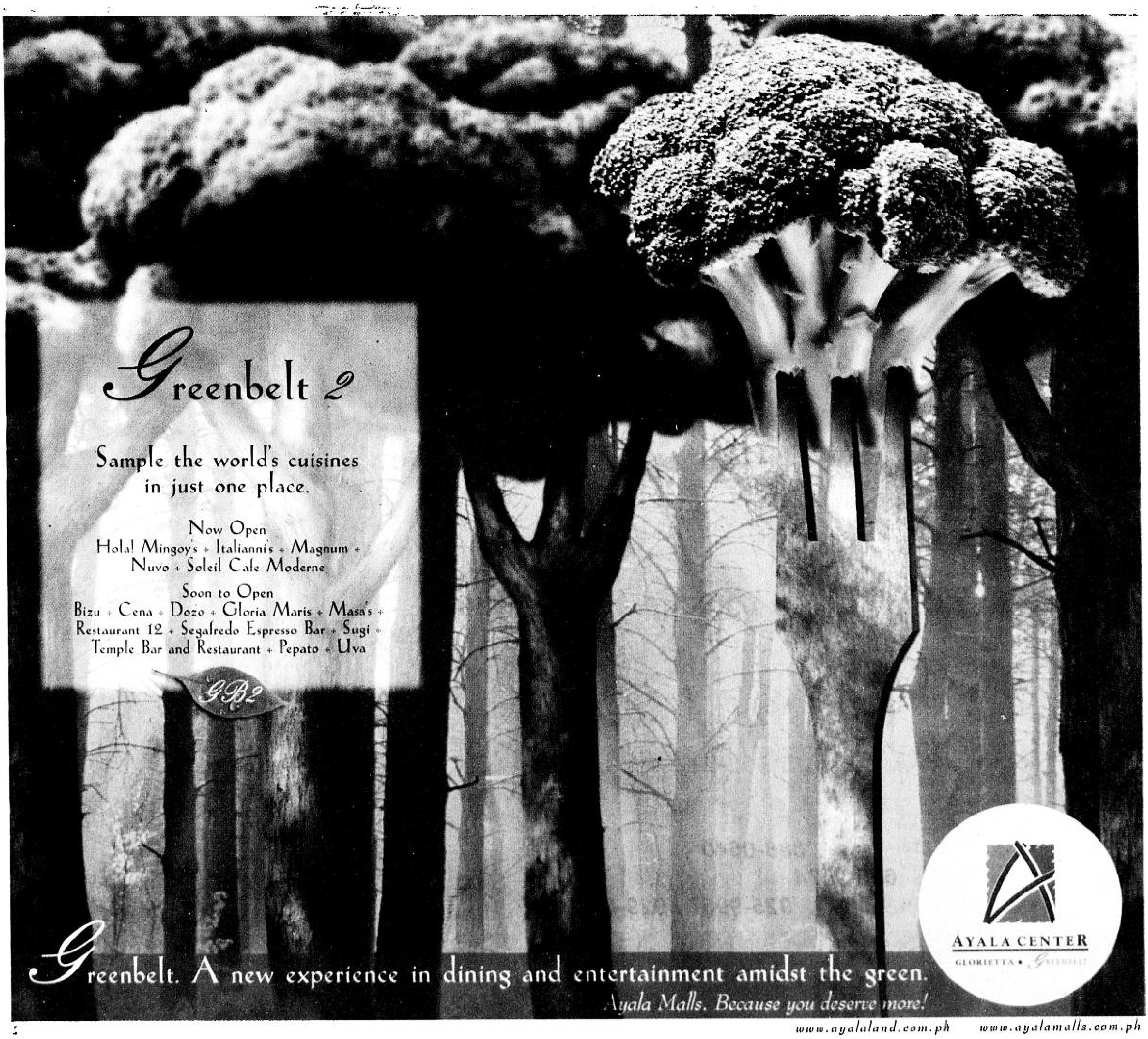

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‘Thoroughly Modern Millie’ tops Tony nominations

From p. E1

LITHGOW. Best actor nominee.

the Woods" garnering 10 to match the surprising total collected by "Urinetown The Musical," a satire that started in a small theater before moving up to Broadway.

"Urinetown" gets its unusual name from a complex plot about a terrible water shortage that leads to the outlawing of private toilets and mandatory use of pay-per-use amenities.

"Sweet Smell of Success," a musical based on a 1957 film, followed the movie trend by matching "Oklahoma!" with seven nominations. But another spinoff from the film world, "The Graduate," with Kathleen Turner in the role of Mrs. Robinson, failed to make the nominations list.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie," which examines the emergence of the modern woman in the 1920s, was nominated for best musical and best director and scored nominations in each of the musical performing categories, with Sutton Foster up for best actress and Gavin Creel nominated as best actor.

The best actor and actress in a play categories both provided star-studded lineups for the awards, which will be presented by the American Theater Wing in a nationally televised show on June 2 at Radio City Music Hall.

Best actor category

Alan Bates was nominated for "Fortune's Fool," along with Billy Crudup ("Elephant Man"), Liam Neeson ("The Crucible"), Alan Rickman ("Private Lives") and Jeffrey Wright ("Topdog/Underdog") in the best actor category.

Best actress nominees were Kate Burton ("Hedda Gabler"), Lindsay Duncan ("Private Lives"), Laura Linney ("The Crucible"), Helen Mirren ("Dance of Death") and Mercedes Ruehl ("The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?").

Burton, daughter of legendary actor Richard Burton, achieved a rare double, as she was also nominated for best featured actress for her role in "The Elephant Man," becoming only the third actress in the 56 years of the Tonys to be nominated for two acting awards in the same season.

Nominees for best play were Edward Albee's "The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?," "Fortune's Fool," Mike Poulton's adaptation of Turgenev's 1848 play, "Metamorphoses" by Mary Zimmerman and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Topdog/Underdog" by Suzan-Lori Parks.

Performance

Broadway veteran John Cullum is up for best actor in a musical for his performance in "Urinetown The Musical," in a category that also includes John Lithgow ("Sweet Smell of Success"), John McMartin ("Into the Woods") and Patrick Wilson ("Oklahoma"!).

Joining "Thoroughly Modern Millie" for consideration as best musical were "Mamma Mia," based on the music of Abba, "Sweet Smell of Success" and "Urinetown The Musical."

A lively battle is expected for the Best Special Theatrical Event category, with "Bea Arthur on Broadway, Just Between Friends," "Elaine Stritch at Liberty," "Mostly Sondheim" (starring Barbara Cook) and "Sexaholix...a love story" vying for the Tony.

Special Tony Awards for Lifetime Achievement in the Theater will be given to actress Julie Harris, who holds the record for most Tonys, with five, and producer Robert Whitehead, a four-time Tony winner. *Reuters"*

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Urian's 'best of the best' honors focus on four filmmakers' works

By Nestor U. Torre

THE MANUNURI ng Pelikulang Pilipino have chosen the 10 best local films produced in the last three decades, with the honors going to the movies of only four filmmakers—Lino Brocka ("Orapronobis," "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Insiang,") Ishmael Bernal ("Manila by Night," "Nunal sa Tubig," "Himala), Mike de Leon ("Batch '81," "Bayaning 3rd World," "Kisapmata"), and Eddie Romero (Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?").

Individual films

The fact that only four directors' works have been cited has bothered some people, but the fact is that the choices were made on the basis of the excellence of individual *films* in comparison with each other, and if it turned out that they were made by pretty much the same people, so be it.

Others have their own preferences when it comes to excellent films, of course--like, "Insiang" giving way to "Sister Stella L," that sort of thing. But the Manunuri have expressed their considered opinion, so if other groups disagree, they can always come up with their own list of "best of the best" films.

Strong showing

What is remarkable about the Manunuri's list is the unexpectedly strong showing of Mike de Leon's movies. This is unexpected, because De Leon's films tend to be iconoclastic and thought-provoking, qualities that are not exactly popular in these parts.

In fact, Mike's last film, "Bayaning 3rd World," which is included in the Manunuri's 10-best list, was hailed by everyone, but seen by only a few. It's great to honor De Leon now, but it would have been *much* better if many more people had gone out of their way to patronize "Bayaning 3rd World" when it played in town.

Tragedy

This is the tragedy of exceptional and exceptionally-committed filmmakers in this country: they are praised but not supported!

So, can they be blamed for losing heart and feeling betrayed by their public, which complains to high heavens about the poor quality of local movies, but when it's gifted with an excellent film, stays away from it in droves?

In any case, Mike remains one of our very best filmmakers, so he (and Eddie Romero) should be encouraged to go back to making feature films.

Do we have to be reminded of the tragic fact that Brocka and Bernal are no longer with us? If not, why do we treat our remaining film masters, De Leon and Romero, so cavalierly? It's not as if we had 10 *other* excellent filmmakers just waiting to replace them!

New movies

So, let's use the Manunuri's "best of the best" list to get producers interested in bankrolling new movies by the likes of Romero and De Leon. There *must* be committed producers out there who are willing to support great filmmaking in this country.

We should also be motivated to work for the elevation of Romero first, and then Mike de Leon, to the ranks of National Artists for Film.

Crying shame

The fact that neither of them has been thus rewarded is a crying shame, because they have accomplished more than some cultural workers who have already been conferred the country's top artistic honor.

Most important of all, Romero and De Leon should be named National Artists *while* they're still with us. We have this weird and stingy penchant for waiting for artists to expire before honoring them!

It's key that we reward them while they're still alive, so that they can enjoy the attendant psychic satisfaction—which could inspire them to produce their best works yet.

A DRAMATIC childbirth sequence from the provocative film "Nunal sa Tubig."

"GANITO KAMI NOON, PAANO KAYO NGAYON?" has Christopher de Leon in the title role of a country bumpkin.

BEMBOL Roco as Julio Madiaga looks for his Ligaya Paraiso in "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag."

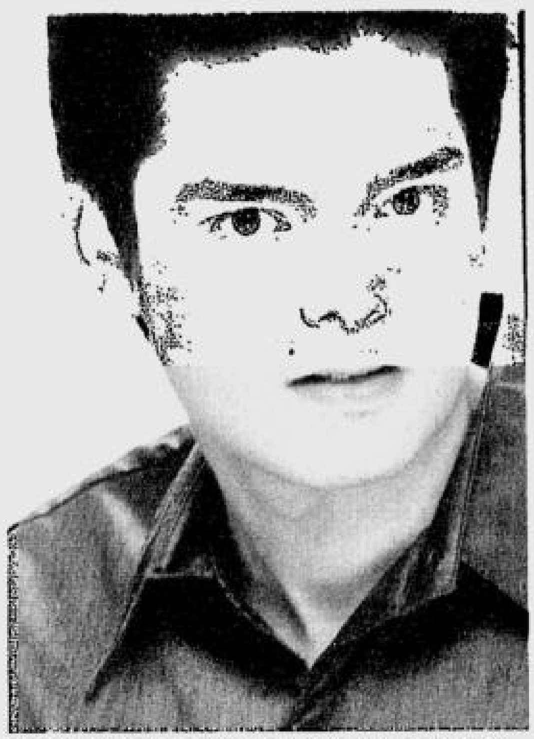
Judy Ann Santos plays security guard in 'Akala Mo'

By Edmund L. Sicam

IN VIVA Films' "Akala Mo," Judy Ann Santos plays a security guard who falls in love with a rich bachelor played (Dingdong Dantes). Rather than wait for Dingdong to pursue her, she takes the initiative by wooing him in her unusual way.

At the presscon for the movie, we asked the actress whether she was like that in real life. Would she pursue a guy she was madly in love with? "Definitely not," Juday says emphatically. "I will wait for him to make the first move. *Kung walang mangyari*, I'll just keep my feelings to myself and suffer in silence." When she does enter into a relationship, she stresses that she will not be the suffering type. "*Ako pa, napaka*-transparent *ko. Alam mo na kaagad kung anong nararamdaman ko.*" She believes that the woman should not play a secondary role in a relationship.

Strong character



DANTES. Cast as rich bachelor pursued by Santos' determined character.

That's also why she prefers playing strong characters in her latest movies. She wants to say goodbye to the "*pa-tweetums*" type of role. "*Marami nang mas bata sa akin ngayon. Panahon na para ipasa ang korona sa kanila.*"

She will, however, draw the line at sexy roles. The 24-year-old actress is not yet ready to do a Rica Peralejo. Would she accept a role that had a sexual theme but would not require her to disrobe? The idea seems to attract her at first, but on second thought, she says that it might require her to deliver expletives and other colorful language. She feels she will be uncomfortable delivering those lines. Maybe, she could tackle such a role if she went through a workshop.

Stars like Robin Padilla and Bong Revilla are trying out roles that go against their action-star image. Would she do the same? Juday says she has done comedies as well as dramas but if she deviates too much from her usual roles, her fans might not like it. It has to be a gradual process, she believes.

One role she has not played is a superheroine or a fantasy figure. In this regard, she says she'd like to play "Dyesebel" if given the chance. She came out in the "Dyesebel" movie with Alice Dixson in the title role. She was only nine years old and was supposed to play one of the mermaids, but that didn't pan out. Even before she joined the movies, she was already fascinated with mermaids, so she still wants to tackle the role.

What if the role called for her to go topless? "Puede kayang backless na lang?" she muses. She's also interested in doing "Darna" because the super-hero-

JUDY ANN/ p. E5

Photography students go on location shoots

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT'S summertime, the season for fiestas--and photography! And it is time for my annual summer photo workshop. This time, I offered both Basic Photography and Advanced Photography. The latter is an introduction to Advertising Photography.

Basic elements

I knew just the place where to bring my students for food shots and to familiriaze them with the basic elements of good photos such as line, shapes and objects, and abstract photography. I brought them to a food and trade fair at the patio of the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish Church, a 210-year-old Jubilee church. The fair showcased 25 traders and their wares.

The Advanced Photography group was composed of Ralph Diaz, a retired United Nations official; New Zealander Elizabeth Finlayson, 37, a nurse by profession; Amanda Navasero, 11, the only one among my three daughters who has pursued further studies in photography; Monchit Santos, an industrial engineer with an MBA from AIM; and Toto Umali, an electrical engineer.

Regional delicacies

This group executed its food shot assignments beside the church's belfry where the sun shone brightly. For subjects they bought food at the trade fair. There were regional delicacies for which Laguna is famous: *kakanin* such as *sapin-sapin, sinuk-mani, kalamay, maja blanca, jalaya, buchi, mache, puto, suman, pancit, lumpiang hubad, pancit puti, itlog na pula, okoy, leche flan, daing na biya, ayungin and kanduli.*

DELICIOUS Laguna *kakanin*.

The Basic Photography students are Datu F. Angeles, who works as an assitant to his brother, magazine photographer Dakila; Anya Alano Benitez, 19, a consistent dean's lister of the Ateneo de Manila University, Psychology department; Ken Guerrero 12; Ral Jacob, 16; Maricor Lustre, is a businesswoman; Bianca Nunag, 19, comunication arts at the Ateneo; Marilo ``Ching" Pakaew, National Dairy Authority Project Development Officer IV; and Anson Tan, 32, who works in the family business.

The visit gave the black-and-white photography students the opportunity to convert all colors at the trade fair into black and white. Host of our visit to Sta. Rosa was the head of the Rotary Club, Chit Lijauco, one of those who spearheaded the successful fair.

Bok's Original HOME-MADE ICE-CREAM

BLACK AND WHITE Basic Photography students (front), Datu Angeles; (from left), Anson Tan, Ral Jacob, Anya Benitez and Maricor Lustre; (back) Ching Pakaew and photography lecturer Mandy Navasero.

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Judy Ann . . .

From p. E4

ine is a classical figure in Philippine culture and to play her would be an honor.

"Akala Mo" is yet another movie where Juday carries the burden of the success or failure of the movie, since Dingdong is not yet a box office star. She did the same for Mikey Arroyo and Luis Allandy in previous movies. On the one hand, she's flattered that people consider her as someone who can "carry" a movie. At the same time, she feels it is unfair to put the entire burden on her lap.

She is specially bothered that some people thing she does these movies just for the money. She explains that she does some projects as a gesture of gratitude to people who helped her out when she was just starting out in the business.

At any rate, she says she's already used to those negative remarks. They're the same comments she used to get when she was just starting out. The actress says she doesn't lose sleep over them.

First-time director

"Akala Mo" is megged by first-time director Lyle Sacris, who is known for his award-winning music videos. Juday relates that after two set-ups she still didn't know who her director was! She approached the supervising producer who introduced her to Lyle.

She was quite surprised because she thought he was just a member of the crew. For the first two weeks, the actress relates that Lyle was uncomfortable in his new role. He kept referring to Juday as "Ma'am" and gave his cast a lot of freedom in interpreting their roles. It took a get-together at Café Kilimanjaro for the cast and crew to bond together and for Lyle to finally establish his role as movie director.

As the shooting continued, Juday became quite impressed with Lyle. "He's so adventurous. He tries shots that you usually don't expect in a movie like this. Only later do you understand why a particular shot was framed in a certain way. *Napaka*-surreal *ng mga* shots *niya*. I learned a lot from him."

Judy Ann will be seen in three more projects this year if everything materializes: a romantic comedy with Robin Padilla, the sequel to her starrer with FPJ which is similar to "Father of the Bride"; and another movie with Piolo Pascual. So, who says the drama princess is no longer in demand?

JFK Jr. biopic 'American Son' rises at CBS

By John Dempsey

NEW YORK--CBS has commissioned a TV movie based on "American Son," the first full-scale biography of John F. Kennedy Jr.

Buzz

The book, written by Richard Blow and published by Henry Holt and Co., hits bookstores this month, following the buzz generated by an excerpt in Vanity Fair.

So that viewers won't be distracted by a celebrity performer trying to suppress his identity in the role of an even more famous celebrity, the producers plan to seek an unknown actor to play JFK Jr.

"Ben Affleck in a JFK wig just wouldn't work," said Ed Gernon, executive VP of movies and mini-series for producer Alliance Atlantis, which owns the rights to the book with True Entertainment.

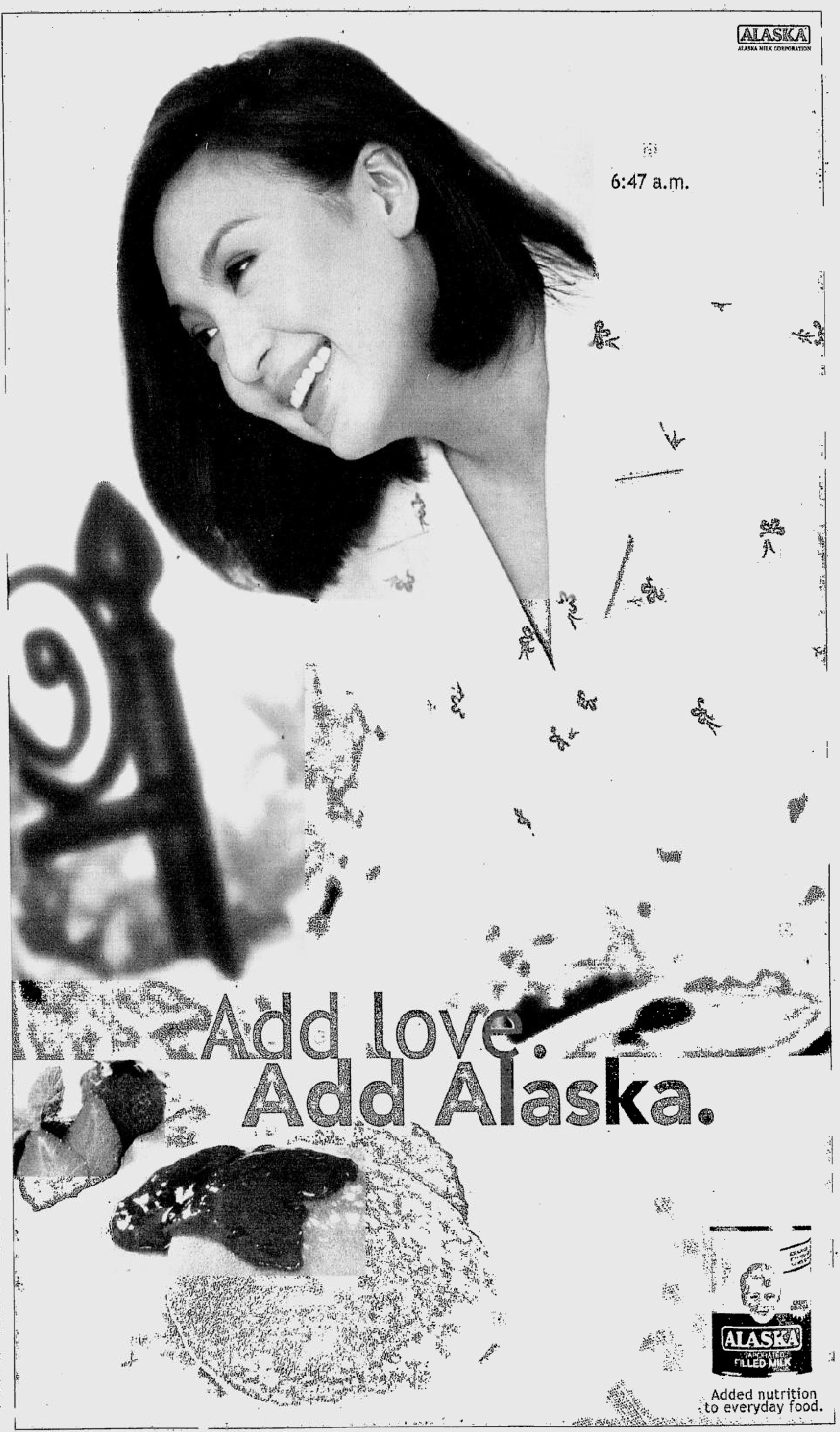
First step

The first step will be to hire a writer to adapt the book.

"I envision the script as a coming-of-age story of a young man whose life was in some sense mapped out by the society that worshipped his celebrity," Gernon said.

Gernon said CBS got the rights to do a movie of the book after spirited bidding by a number of networks, both broadcast and cable. He declined to reveal any financial terms.

"American Son" represents the first docu-drama ever set in motion by True Entertainment, whose stock-in-trade is reality programming like "Trauma: Life in the E.R." for Learning Channel and "Women Docs" for Lifetime.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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Bernard Palanca is a good boy at heart

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

BERNARD Palanca usually plays bad-boy roles and gets snide remarks whenever he goes to malls, but he claims to be a good boy in real life.

"I'm such a baby. I can't even hurt a fly. But I think it's fun to play a bad boy because I play against who I am and what I stand for. I love life. After doing a mean scene, I really can't imagine someone being that bad! But I can get mad if anyone says something bad against my family and friends," Bernard shares.

Good actors draw from their own emotions and experiences to make a scene more realistic. How can he motivate himself to be so mean and cunning if he's not like that in real life? Where does he get his angst?

"I had a pretty rough childhood. When I was growing up, I had a lot of reasons to rebel. From 13 to 17, I was a bad boy! My friends influenced me then but I wasn't pressured to act that way. I chose to take the path of *kalokohan*. I grew up too fast. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life.

"When I need angst, I don't look at my past. My experiences help, but to act well, I think I should just do a scene based on what I feel at that moment," Bernard says.

Bernard considers his grandfather, Armando Goyena, his role model but he wants to be as good an actor as his idols, Al Pacino, Marlon Brando and Robert De Niro.

He's also a poet. He writes his best verses inside the bathroom. He was so inspired one day that he wrote verses with a pentel pen on the bathroom walls. "When my mom saw it, she got mad. But I told her not to erase it.

"Poetry and singing with my band, Bisquit Factory, is my life. My youngest brother also cheers me up. I treat him like he's my son. He's the only one who can wake me up even if I'm *puyat* and I'll still be smiling," he grins.

New boy band

The pop market doesn't seem to get tired of boy bands, especially if the members combine both talent and looks.

Take the newest boy band, Formula, composed of Larry, Mike, Mark and Francis. They not only sing but also write their own music—an edge which not many other boy bands can boast of. Which is why their singles, "Kunin Mo Na Ang Lahat" and "Bakit Nga Ba Mahal Kita" enjoyed good airplay.

They like singing "martyr" songs because Filipinos are 'sentimental fools.' They admit though that BoyzIIMen has largely influenced their sound. Even if they're up against other boy bands like Toyz, 1201, Kanto Boys, Jeremiah and Wiseguys, they believe that they have a niche in the music scene.

"We're the only boy band that has a pop R&B sound with an ethnic Pinoy groove. In the States, you have to be good-looking and muscular to sell; here you just need a good hit song. A song that can make the crowd roar *sa* opening lines *pa lang* and leave a lasting impression," Larry notes.

Their biggest dream is to be as popular as the Side A band.

AUNOR. Wants to act in a film this year.

Everything's coming up roses for Donita

We are very happy that Donita Rose is in full bloom this summer. Aside from being the most-liked VJ presenter on the MTV channel, Donita is a sought-after product endorser.

While she remains one of the highest -paid talents in the shampoo (Lux) and soda (Pepsi) categories, Donita has recently added sports apparel (Fila) and eyewear (i2i)to her list of product endorsements.

We attended the glittering launch of Fila at the Venezia Club recently where Donita made a dramatic entrance in a flaming-red Ferrari!

We learned that Donita's heart is throbbing a little faster nowadays. "Let's just say I'm inspired. It's too early to tell, but it's been quite a while since I last felt something like this!" she blushes.

Nora Aunor turns a year older

Superstar Nora Aunor turns a year older on Tuesday, but there's nothing definite about any celebration, or about her career moves for the rest of the year.

But this doesn't mean that she is not on the lookout for worthwhile projects. She recently told us that she'd love to do a movie before the year ends. She also plans to perform abroad.

Many know that not all is well in the Aunor household, with all her children choosing to live away from her, but she remains hopeful that they will be able to thresh out their problems.

We asked her if she still makes birthday wishes, and she smiled, quipping, "*Oo naman, kahit lampas na tayo sa kalendaryo. Ang mga* wish *ko*: Peace of mind, good health, *'tsaka* true happiness." May all your birthday wishes come true!

Mr. and Miss Physique

From May 24 to 26, the island of Boracay will again be teeming with beautiful people, including the contestants of Mr and Ms Physique Philippines, an annual project of the Philippine Bodybuilding Sports Federation.

There will be seven categories for the male division, all based on weight, and an open competition for women bodybuilders.

There will be an added attraction called the wet-bikini contest, which is being introduced to add fun to the contest. Call 0917-6981804 or (033) 337-5784.

Well-earned victories

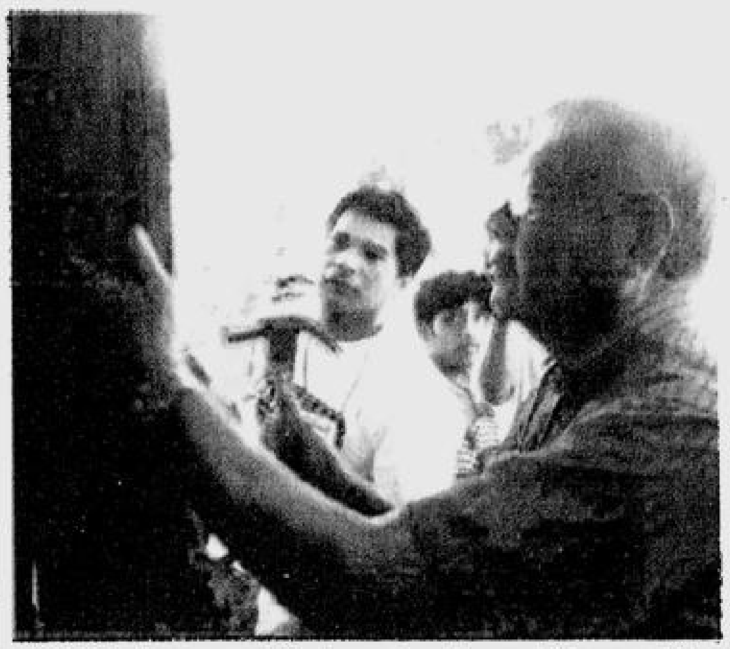
We are delighted at the recent victories of film director Lav Diaz ("Batang Westside") and actress Rosanna Roces ("La Vida Rosa") in the Urian Awards.

We were privy to the long (and often difficult) process that Diaz had to go through for him to make a movie out of his wonderful script. It took years, thousands of miles and a few controversies for Diaz to finish the five-hour film, shot entirely in New York and New Jersey.

Although he knew that he had to move heaven and earth again for his film to be shown on the commercial circuit (no theater owner would risk accommodating a five-hour movie), the many trophies his film garnered at the Urian are no small vindication for Diaz and company.

On the other hand, Rosanna Roces has proven that there is a right time for everything, and that patience is a virtue.

Now, after years of carefully choosing her projects, Roces is beginning to earn interest on her investments in the acting business. Congratulations!



MAYOR Belmonte needs his glasses to make sure his hammer hits the nail.

Stars help build homes for the poor

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

LAST Saturday, a miracle happened in Payatas, Quezon City. On that morning, the stars came down. They descended on that place, a stone's throw away from the dumpsite where, several years ago, a mountain of garbage collapsed and fell on the shanties of some of this country's poorest of the poor.

Miracle

The stars shone. But that wasn't the miracle. The miracle was that they built houses for the poor.

Ronnie Ricketts. Ricky Davao. Melanie Marquez. Chat Silayan. Jeanne Young. Mandy Ochoa. Imelda Papin. Marco Sison. Karylle. Fashion designer Renee Salud. QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte. Films and record producer Bella Tan came with her friends to build three homes that she sponsored together with James Dy and Ramon Chuaying of Universal Records.

There, too, were the angels of the Government Service Insurance System, who not only tried their hands at painting walls but also sponsored the building of five houses.

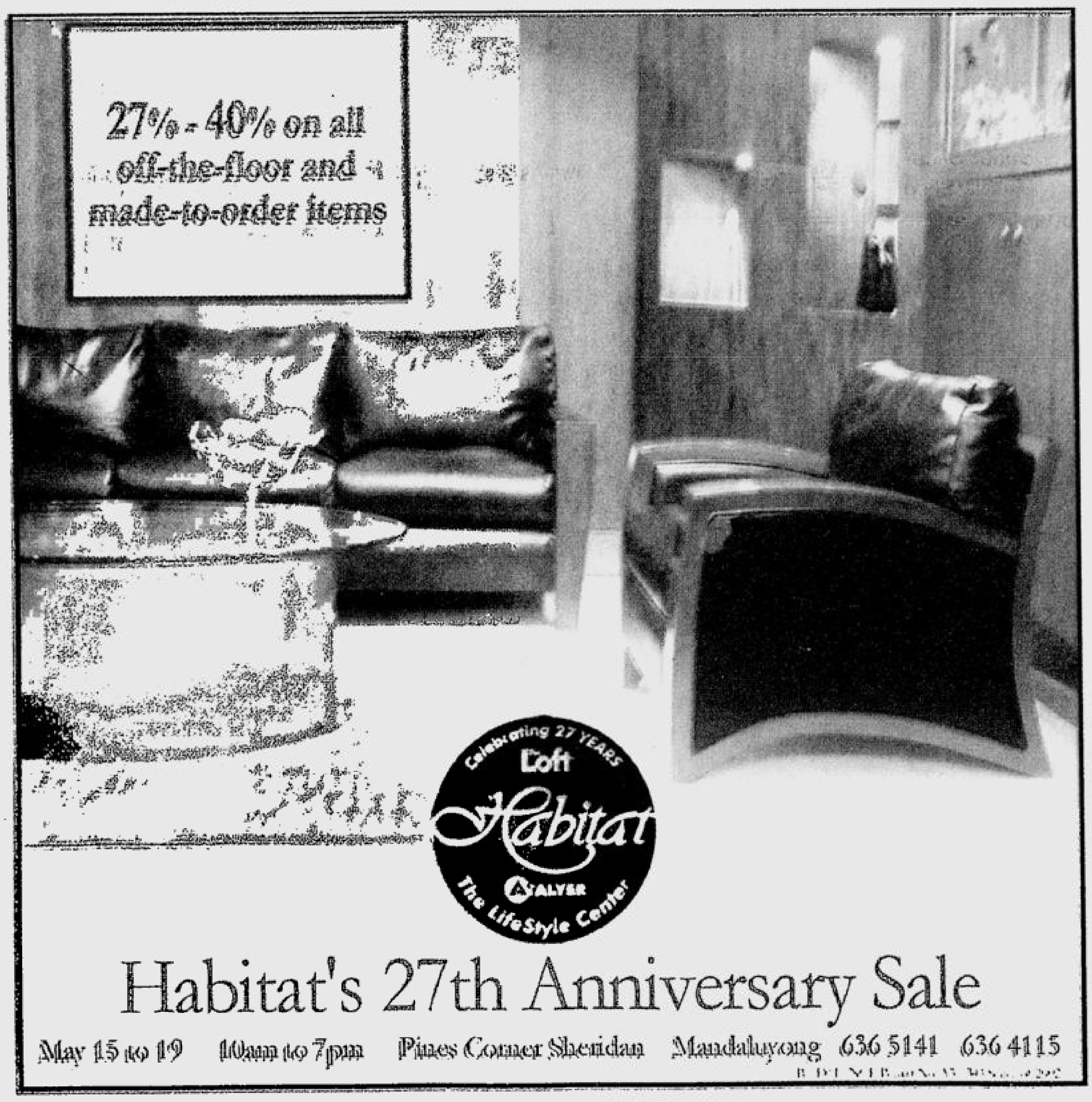
Fierce rivals

The Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Green Archers basketball team may be fierce rivals on the hardcourt, but, they joined hands in building one house.

This happened in the Celebrity Build organized by Couples for Christ as part of its pre-build activities leading to the National Build on June 1 and 2, when they will construct no less than 1,000 houses in 70 Gawad Kalinga areas nationwide.

At the end of the day, all the celebrities went home tired, but happy and fulfilled. They knew that the day was well spent because they did something for a worthy cause.

FORMER Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Jewel Lobaton-Pimentel reaches for the high part of the wall she's painting.



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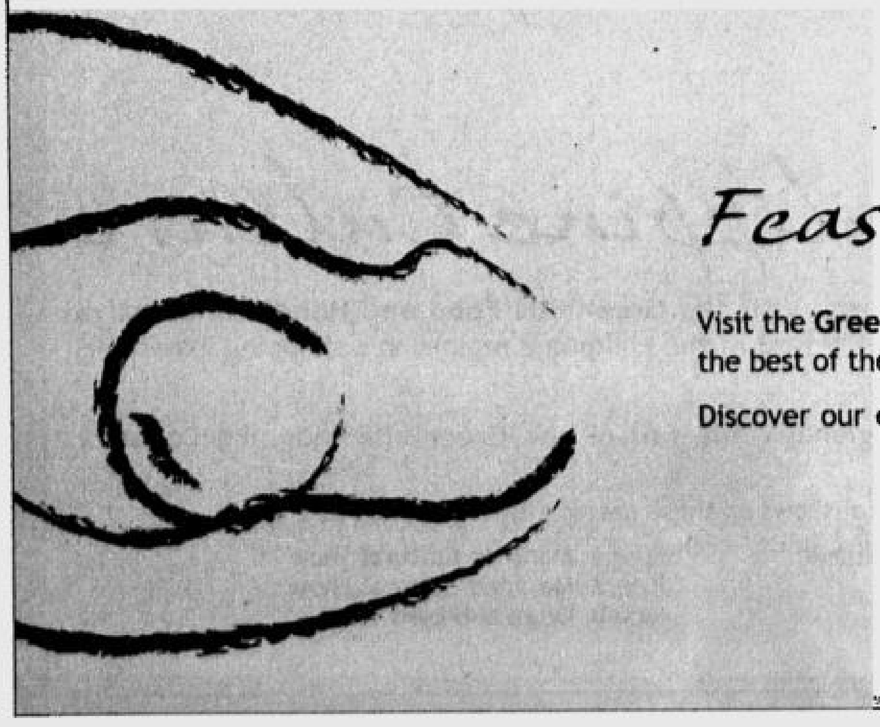

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Catch spectacular cultural shows on these dates: (All shows start at 2 pm)

May 18 Drum and Bugle Band
May 19 Rondalla
May 25 Ati-Atihan
May 26 Pangkat Kawayan
June 1 Maranao Cultural Show
June 2 Maranao Cultural Show
June 8 Drum and Lyre

"SPIDERMAN." No. 29 on the all-time US domestic list after only two weekends.

'Spider-Man' hurtles past $200 million

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—It took just 10 days for "Spider-Man" to muscle its way into the top-30 list of highest-grossing films.

A $71.4 million haul in its second weekend pushed "Spider-Man" to a total of $223 million, No. 29 on the all-time domestic list, just $3 million behind "Rush Hour 2," which took more than two months to gross $223 million.

By the end of next weekend, "Spider-Man" should be pushing $300 million and will be on the verge of cracking the top 10.

Mind-blowing

"It's staggering, really mind-blowing to see a movie get there so quickly," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "Some films take months to do that. Some it takes years to do that with reissues."

After a record-smashing debut of $114.8 million, "Spider-Man" had the best second weekend ever. Distributor Sony expects "Spider-Man" to be at $240 million by the time "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" opens Thursday.

"We're just happy to be where we are by the time they open," said Jeff Blake, Sony head of distribution and marketing.

No match

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas has conceded "Episode II" will not match the record debut of "Spider-Man," which opened on about 1,500 more screens than "Attack of the Clones" will.

Big results expected for "Star Wars" will pad the box office in a year where Hollywood revenues are running 19 percent ahead of the record pace last year, when the industry took in $8.4 billion. Domestic movie grosses already are at $3 billion for the year, three weeks less than it took to hit that point a year ago, Dergarabedian said.

Top 10 movies

The top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, with their grosses for the week.

1. "Spider-Man," $71.4 million.
2. "Unfaithful," $14.1 million.
3. "The New Guy," $9 million.
4. "The Scorpion King," $4.9 million.
5. "Changing Lanes," $3.8 million.
6. "The Rookie," $2.6 million.
7. "Murder by Numbers," $2.4 million.
8. "Ice Age," $1.6 million.
9. "Panic Room," $1.5 million.
10. "Life or Something Like It," $1.4 million.

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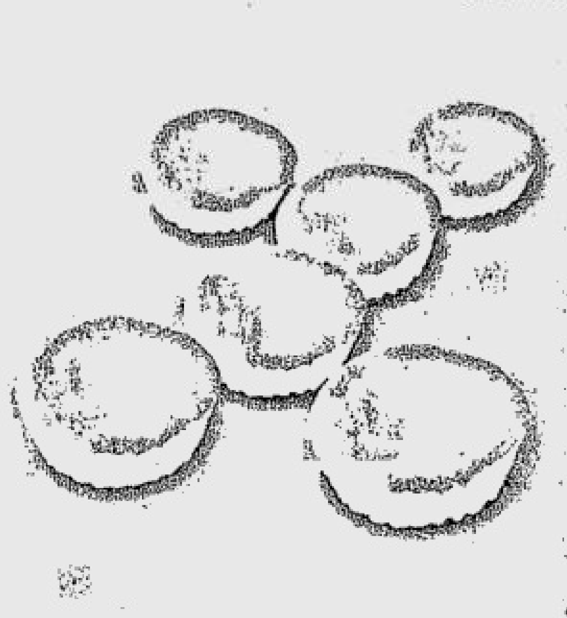

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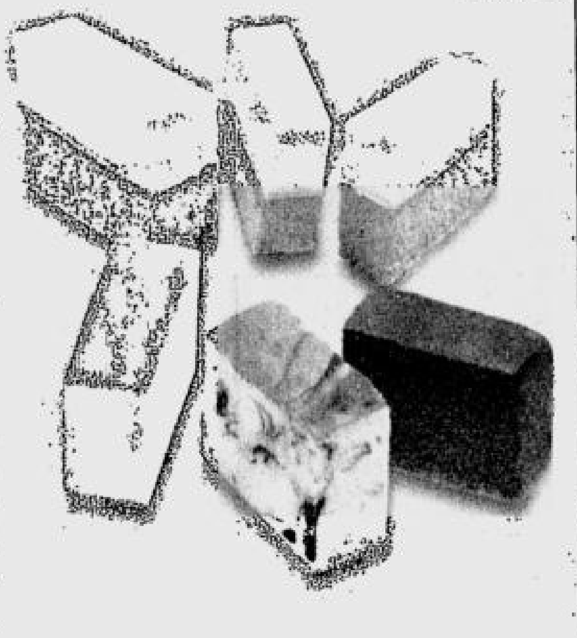

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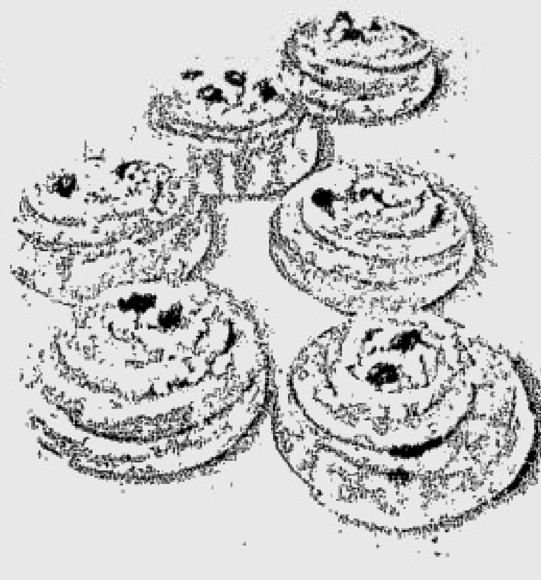

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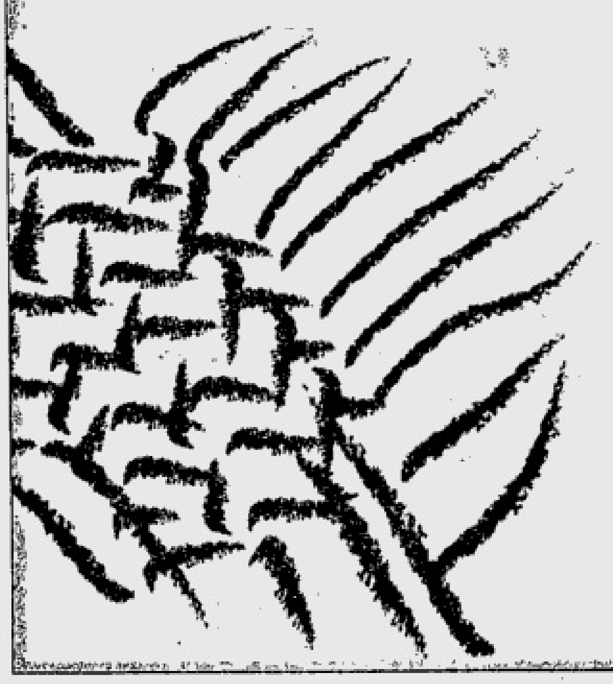

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CHRISTENSEN. Good guy going bad.

SATURDAY Special

Show me the mask, says new Darth Vader

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—Hayden Christensen has a problem.

The young, relatively unknown actor needs a big role like the one he's got as Anakin Skywalker in the new "Stars War" movie opening on Thursday, so he will be seen by all those Hollywood big shots who write million dollar paychecks.

Problem is, all Christensen wants to do is wear a mask—Darth Vader's black mask of evil, that is.

"That would be just super cool for me," the 21-year-old Canadian said.

Evil guardian

Of course, Christensen is not yet the menacing Darth Vader, a Jedi Knight turned evil guardian of the "dark side" in the "Star Wars" movies. In "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones," he is still young Anakin, an apprentice learning how to wield his Jedi lightsaber for maximum

SHOW/ p. F2

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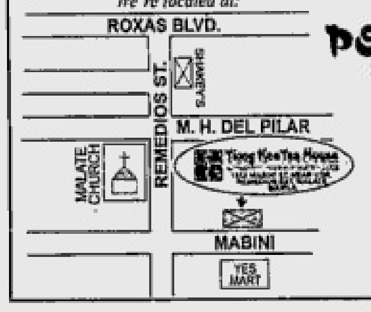

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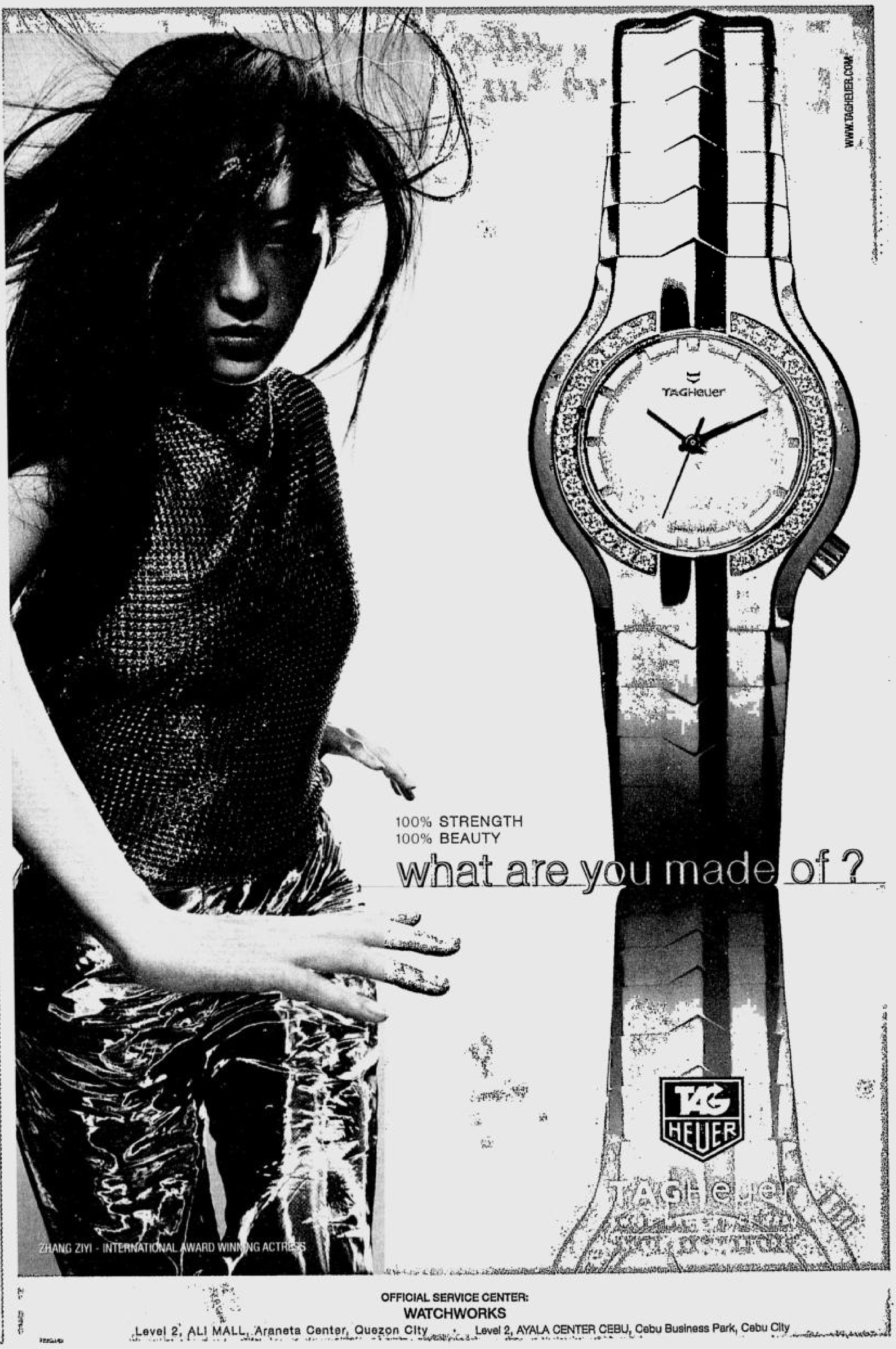

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Cannes rumbles into gear for annual film festival

By Joelle Diderich

CANNES, France--The French Riviera resort of Cannes rumbled into gear on Monday for its world-famous annual film festival, where a cast of thousands will gather over the next two weeks to celebrate the magic of the silver screen.

Screenings

Actors, directors, distributors, journalists and assorted hangers-on began to flood into the Mediterranean city for a seemingly endless cycle of screenings, news conferences and parties that has made this the high point of the movie calendar.

"You can't miss the Cannes festival. All the players on the planet meet there, hook up, make film projects," festival chief Gilles Jacob said in a recent magazine interview.

The festival, which runs from May 15 to 26, is primarily a showcase for the kind of arty films that otherwise risk being ignored at the box office, but the intellectual fare is always tempered with a healthy dose of old-fashioned Hollywood glamour.

Cannes veterans like British directors Mike Leigh and Ken Loach, Portugal's Manoel de Oliveira and Israel's Amos Gitai. are among those bidding for the coveted Palme D'Or award.

Celebrities expected to walk up the red carpet include Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz, Woody Allen, Jack Nicholson and Ralph Fiennes, promising to restore the celebrity count after a threatened actors' strike kept many stars away last year.

For young filmmakers, the festival offers the chance to become an overnight star.

Virtual unknown

Witness Bostnian director Danis Tanovic, a virtual unknown, who premiered his film "No Man's Land" in Cannes last year and went on to win the Oscar for best foreign language movie.

"Since May 12, 2001, the date my film was shown at Cannes, my life has changed," Tanovic has said.

Risky gamble

For others, the festival can prove a risky gamble. Earn bad reviews from the hundreds of film critics gathered here, and you can be practically sure your film will flop at the box office.

Tim Robbins said last year he never again wanted to present a movie he has directed at the hectic festival. "I don't get why you'd want to subject your baby to this place," the American actor-director told Reuters.

Many Hollywood studios, wary of the festival's reputation for rewarding obscure foreign films, opt to screen their offerings out of competition.

Sidelines

Among those hugging the sidelines this year are Barbet Schroeder's "Murder by Numbers", starring Sandra Bullock, and the animated "Spirit" by Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks studio.

Special treats will include a 20-minute snippet from US director Martin Scorsese's eagerly-awaited "Gangs of New York", starring DiCaprio and Diaz, scheduled for release in December.

Meanwhile, George Lucas attended a screening of "Star Wars: Episode I—Attack of the Clones" on May 16, the same day the blockbuster production hit US multiplexes.

If the jury is anything to go by, however, the big winner of the festival could be an altogether offbeat production.

Headed by director David Lynch, famous for his surreal and disturbing movies, the jury features five other directors in addition to actresses Sharon Stone and Michelle Yeoh.

That should give a running start to competitors like David Cronenberg, whose "Spider" stars Fiennes as a schizophrenic, or the eccentric Aki Kaurismaki, fielding the story of an amnesiac aptly entitled "The Man Without a Past." *Reuters*

DIRECTOR David Lynch heads the filmfest jury, which includes five other filmmakers.

Why Mexican soaps are popular with Filipino viewers

By Behn Cervantes

"WHY do they like those Mexican soaps so much?" demands an angry friend who expresses her displeasure with the slew of soaps from South of the American Border taking over our early-evening lives. Obviously, the lady does not watch them. I don't either, but (I think) I know why they are so popular.

Predictable

To start with, the stories of those soaps are ever so predictable. They are staple fare of our traditional notion of drama—meaning, *sentimentalismo, iyakan, sigawan, bakbakan, kantahan* and *sayawan*, with other soap ingredients like *kabayanihan, kataksilan, pang-aapi* and oodles of *intriga, romansa* and *kagandahan!*

You've got these beautiful creatures, all *mestizos* and *mestizas* to boot, dressed up in the flashy suits and gowns Pinoys love to wear during our many *fiestas*. The poised *señoras* and shapely *señoritas* are coifed and made up so they all look like the great *mestiza* beauties of local filmdom. *Aba*, the Amalia Fuentes types are practically a dime a dozen. *Guapas* they are, without a doubt.

The handsome and virile *señors can* all give Aga Muhlach, Richard Gomez and Gabby Concepcion stiff competition. *Guapo y muy macho,* too. And boy, do they dress up in smart get-ups!

Tired

What more can a Pinoy viewer ask for, after a hectic day? He's tired from work, he's sick and tired of the traffic, the bad news on television, he wants to fly far away from it all! What better world to inhabit than the world of the soap, where life is scripted and all's well that ends well?

There is something comforting about the predictability of it all. In the end, the good and beautiful win while the bad lose—although the latter may give the *pogi* and *guapa* a hard time, enough to give the boring life of the viewer some spice.

'MARIMAR.' No preconceived personas to cultivate.

The good may suffer cancer and leprosy, and become victims of the wiles of the evil ones but in the end, the handsome hero and the beautiful leading lady reign victorious, to the accompaniment of romantic guitars or symphonic music.

With the popularity of hair dyes, Pinoy viewers now identify better with blondes, brunettes and redheads. Hey, he/she/it, can have the same color courtesy of that inexpensive hair dye available in many market *bangketas*. The viewer works hard to achieve the *tisoy* look since s/he has been conditioned to believe *tisoys* and *tisays* are *muy maganda*. Well, here you have a slew of them at your beck and call, for your fantasy trip to—wherever!

Melodramatic

If you tire of the melodramatic and predictable goings-on, you can switch channels and find more of the same with a mere flick of your remote control. We have the Gil and De Mesa clan playing *señores* and *señoritas* but Mexico has dozens of Rosemaries, Cheries, Marks and Michaels! In fact, they are a centavo a dozen.

Even the Mexican maids behave like our local soap domestics except that they are *tisoy*, too. Imagine that? *Hablando en Español ademas!*

In local films, the colorful characters reside in posh and highly-decorated mansions. Well, those Mexican soaps abound with huge stone mansions in some of the best locales of *muy bonito Mejico*. Such color, ostentatious pomp and glorious circumstance! *Grabe ang ganda!*

They've got color, music and fiestas when necessary, all approximating the fantasy world of practically every Juan and Maria de la Cruz. It is close enough to be the Philippines, except that the locations are more beautiful, the *artistas* more *mestizo* and the dramatic climaxes more *bongga!* It is a fantasy world, alright.

I guess the Mexican soaps also have the advantage that the actors do not have preconceived personas that local stars cultivate for their adoring public. Of course, since we are a familial lot, very soon the Pinoy viewing public will be on first-name basis with the Mexicans, be they Thalia or Fernando Jose. They are indeed the ideal gal and hunk of a guy that inhabit the fantasy world of our Juan and Maria.

Cathartic experience

It is certainly also a cathartic experience, because those beautiful people, like the grand characters in Greek tragedies, suffer more pain and greater disasters than they do. After such a nightly purgation, Juan and Maria realize life isn't so bad after all, since the gorgeous *mestizos* are abused, slapped and betrayed by villains no different from those they have long known.

Best of all, these beautiful *mestizos* and *mestizas* suffering life's ups and downs fon a daily basis speak *Tagalog*—no matter if they have that put-on Hispanic accent. A confusion of the reel and real world, but very relaxing after all is said and cried by those soaps' melodramatic but oh-so-colorful characters.

Grow your own wheatgrass

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW can we obtain nutritious wheatgrass juice? While it is sold in health food stores in various forms (tablet, powder or bottled juice), it is far cheaper and wiser to make our own. Especially in a country where farmers are expert in growing rice grass, it should not be a big problem to grow wheat grass. And if you find great difficulty in growing it, you can resort to rice grass juice.

In fact, I had a guest from abroad who worked on systematically planting rice seedlings just so he could get his ration of grass juice while in the country. It would be wonderful indeed if Filipinos researched more on the wonders of rice grass juice and promoted its use in the country.

Techniques

In the meantime, here are practical suggestions and techniques given by Li Smith in her book "Wheatgrass: Superfood for a New Millennium" on producing your own wheatgrass juice:

1. Wheatgrass is sprouted wheat kernels which have been allowed to grow to the height of six inches or more, usually for 7-14 days, either indoors or outdoors in trays or in the open ground. (Wheat kernels are locally known as trigo and can be purchased in public markets such as Paco or Divisoria. You can try some animal feed stores where they sell *trigo* as bird or animal food.)

2. Place the kernels in a sieve and wash under running water. Gently put into a glass bowl and cover twice with purified water.

Germinating kernels

Cover the bowl and leave it to soak for 12-14 hours. After this time, strain the seeds. Half-fill seed trays with compost and place one handful of soaked seeds onto each tray. Spread the seeds out so that they just touch, not overlap. Mist or spray gently. Cover the top of the trays with black plastic sheeting. Mist or spray with a little water everyday, when the soil feels slightly dry. Keep the germinating kernels covered until the grass is about one or two inches high.

Remove the plastic coverings and place the trays in a protected, warm, light-shade spot. The grass is soon chlorophylated by the sun, which fills the leaves with radiant, healing energy. When the grass has reached its optimal level of growth, it can be juiced with a wheatgrass juicer or an ordinary blender.

When a blender is used, liquefy the wheatgrass with some pure water, with or without raw honey. It may also be chewed, frozen, dried or made into a tincture. (If you don't have a juicer or blender, simply pound the grass, squeeze out the juice and drink it.)

3. Enzymes in wheatgrass, which are very dynamic after seven days of growth, start rapidly breaking down after being juiced, so for best effects, drink wheatgrass juice immediately after juicing.

Ice tray

4. Wheatgrass juice will keep for about 12 hours in the refrigerator. Leftover juice can also be frozen in an ice tray. Freezing does not destroy enzymes the way cooking does.

5. Start off with about an ounce of fresly juiced wheatgrass. Ideally, it is best to drink it first thing in the morning on an empty stomach. Wait for 20 minutes. It takes fast-acting wheatgrass just 20 minutes to be assimilated into the system and to start its process of breaking down toxins.

Wheatgrass can be compared to a gentle detergent. Staring with the mouth, gums, teeth and then stomach, it filters into all the internal organs. It helps to purify the liver and aids the lymphatic system to carry away toxins from body cells.

The bloodstream is where wheatgrass is particularly effective. Its cleansing nutrients purify and rebuild the blood. Wheatgrass may increase the production of hemoglobin and can help to reverse long-term diseases such as anemia and high blood pressure.

Mistakes

6. Common mistakes to avoid are purchasing old or infertile kernels, over-watering, soaking the seeds for too long, making use of depleted soil to grow the wheatgrass and leaving the trays covered too long, which will cut off air and cause mold or fungus. Young wheatgrass showing signs of wilting or drooping may be suffering from heat stroke or lack of water. Wheatgrass prefers light-shade conditions.

Besides the juice used for drinking, the resulting leftover pulp can be used as a skin food. As much as 60 percent of this matter may be absorbed by the skin.

Leave out the tray of pulp for dogs, cats and birds. They will love it, too!"

Young people pick their favorite FM radio station

By Noelani Torre

RADIO may no longer be as popular now as it was during the pre-television and pre-internet days, but it's still a major player in the field of entertainment and information dissemination.

Wide audience

People, however, generally associate it with grandmas and *promdis*. That's not a clear picture of the current situation at all. Radio has a wide audience, and surprisingly enough, given the heights music television has risen to recently, a large percentage of radio listeners are young people in their teens and early 20s.

Most of them frequent the FM band, however, because the stations there offer more of the things that an MTV-oriented generation wants. So, which stations have what they're looking for? Which draw the most listeners? What's the hottest hottest FM radio station among the young, and why? Let's find out from our respondents:

Topics

"I. like 93.9 KC FM, especially in the morning because they have Chico and Delamar. *Ang kulit ng dalawang* hosts! They discuss certain topics in their program and they get listeners to call and respond to these topics, *minsan mga* silly things like, what if *sumabog* na ang earth, etc. Their comments are really funny.

"They also have this 'Ranting and Raving' segment that's almost as funny. You can really get into it. I also like this station because they don't play *jologs* music by singers like April Boy or those *bastos* Tagalog songs. They play pop, R & B, and the most recent hits, which I prefer."—*Shariah Gandy, 19.*

Evening show

"Magic 89.9. Cool *ang mga pinapatugtog nila, walang jologs. Gusto ko yung mga* DJs, especially King DJ Logan and Slick Rick with their evening show 'Boogie Nights.' *Medyo bastusin kasi ako at di mo naman talaga made*-deny *na nakakaaliw makinig sa mga* sexcapades *na pinagkukuwento nila.* Fictitious *yung iba, kaya nakakatawa.*

"Balanced *yung mga pinapatugtog nila,* each day *may* specific program. Saturdays they have 'Night Live,' bale live music *na may magandang* acoustics. *'Pag* Sunday *naman,* slow jam, *tapos* "Tunog Kalye" *sa hapon. Ito yung mga pinaka*-cool *na Pinoy na tugtugin, luma at bago* – E-heads, Rivermaya, Parokya ni Edgar, Francis M, Cheese, etc. "*Meron din silang* CD reviews *na prangkahan talaga. Kung ayaw nila sa* album, *sasabihin nila. Minsan* sarcastic *pa, kaya nakakaaliw pakinggan. Sayang nga lang at wala na si* Mo Twister *sa* 'Early Returns Countdown.' *Isa siya sa mga pinakamagaling na* DJ."—*Ai-ai Polina, 20.*

Alternative music

"K-Lite 103.5. They have what I call chopsuey music. They're not mainstream pop because they don't play any Brittney Spears or N'Sync. They play alternative music, slow rock, sometimes techno. This is my favorite station because it's only here where I get to listen to songs that aren't usually played anymore, like songs by the Smashing Pumpkins. Plus they feature music by my favorite artists, like the Goo-goo Dolls, Collective Soul, Soul Asylum, Sting and the Police, U2, Alanis, Sheryl Crow, Sarah Maclachlan, etc.

"They air the US countdown, 'American Top 20,' hosted by Casey Kasem—it's much better to listen to than the other countdowns. Radio is my only diversion nowadays and it just so happens that K-Lite is the station that plays the music I want. No boy bands, no girl groups. They also air music from the '70s, '80s and '90s, so it's the new alongside the old. They have an eclectic selection. So I like them for their music."—*Trey Echavez, 22*

News reports

"KC FM. Because, aside from their frequently updated news reports, they have DJs who know how to introduce songs. You don't get bored when you listen to them because they're always joking around. They make the segments fun. They have different styles, but they only have one goal, and that is to entertain their listeners.

"They're great to listen to in the morning when you're in your car and there's heavy traffic because they keep your mind away from stressful stuff. Chico and Delamar's "Morning Rush" is a guaranteed waker-upper. They also keep their song list updated and the DJs know which ones to select—what's hot at the moment, what's new, things like that. Also they don't embarrass their callers, unlike in other radio stations. They're never offensive and when there's trouble, they know when and how to troubleshoot it."—*Amberle Tan, 19.*

Show me the mask . . .

From p. F1

power.

In "Episode III," which begins shooting next summer and hits theaters in 2005, Christensen gets to crossover to the "dark side" and become Vader, father of the hero of the final three episodes of the six-part series, Luke Skywalker.

Christensen said that while making Episode II, he "nagged" director George Lucas about details for Episode III and when he gets to play the bad guy. But the director—as he is with everyone—kept a poker face when it came to the next movie.

First hints

So, all fans really know is that Anakin does become Darth Vader, and they see the first hints of malcontent in "Clones." In 1999's "Episode I—The Phantom Menace," we saw young Anakin as a 9-year-old, fatherless child who is chosen to be a Jedi Knight. In "Clones," audiences find him having just turned 20 years old.

He has been in the galaxy's outer reaches serving the intergalactic Republic with his master, Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor). But the pair are summoned home by the Republic's leaders and ordered to protect Sen. Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman). *Reuters*

Martin Nievera still packing them in at Onstage

NIEVERA. A fresh show each time.

By Gloria P. Sicam

I WAS dumbfounded. You'd think that, after 31 shows at Onstage last year, *and* then a concert right after, and having a late night show daily would make people sick of him. No such luck. Last Saturday, Onstage Greenbelt was full. Apparently, people still pay to watch Martin Nievera sing live. And in return, the people who conceptualize Martin's concerts strive to make his shows fresh every time. They haven't run out of gimmicks for Martin's concerts just yet.

Trivia questions

Firstly, to give people something to do while waiting for the concert to start, there's a slide show of trivia questions about Martin that patrons can try to answer. I learned some interesting facts about Martin—I never knew Jackie Lou Blanco was his first show biz girlfriend! They also give you a number to text your song requests to Martin. They ask you to include your name, and during the concert, should the song come up, Martin mentions that the song was requested by "so and so." It's a cool gimmick—you let the audience become part of the concert that way.

And, wonders of wonders, the concert actually started at 9:15 p.m. That's good for a 9 p.m. show. And the concert started with yet another gimmick—the band entered through a "metal detector" at the center of the stage, and you could see some of them trying to "smuggle" things through the contraption. One of them had Hello Kitty dolls in his jacket. Yet another had a Martin poster. The creative minds behind Martin's concerts just never stop!

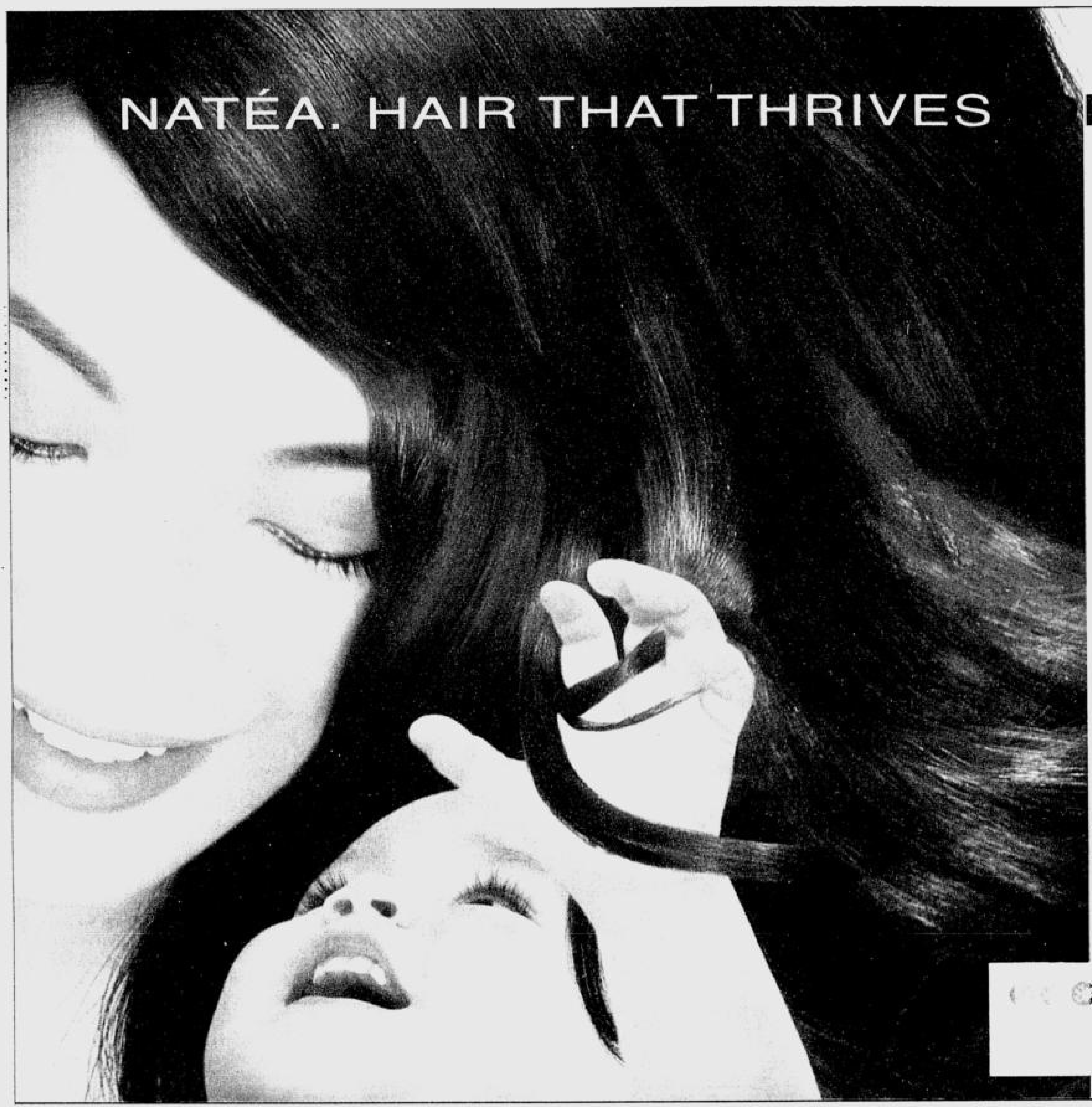
Martin will go to *any* lengths to entertain an audience—maybe that's why people keep coming back for more. He re-enacted the kissing scene from the movie "Spider-Man," where the superhero is upside down and his love interest, Mary Jane, kisses him in the rain. He actually hung upside down from a bar, and after being kissed by a member of his staff, he started crooning, "I can be your hero, baby..." And it would've been a wonderful, sweeping song, especially for those who have seen the movie and *love* that kissing scene, had it not been for Martin's shirt that kept on falling and exposing... many things. It was hilarious!

Another interesting gimmick was bringing "Martin Late at Night" to the concert. A portion of the stage had two couches, exactly like the set of his talk show. Martin drew a ticket stub from a fishbowl and whoever was sitting in the seat he called out was the person he would interview. It's a risk to bring in an audience member, especially if he turns out to be uncooperative, but, with Martin as host, no problem. The most boring audience member becomes interesting with Martin at the helm.

Favorite songs

But of course, after all the gimmicks, you still have Martin's

MARTIN/ p. F4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June 20-26

Festival Mall
(Carousel Court)
May 18-19

Robinsons Ermita
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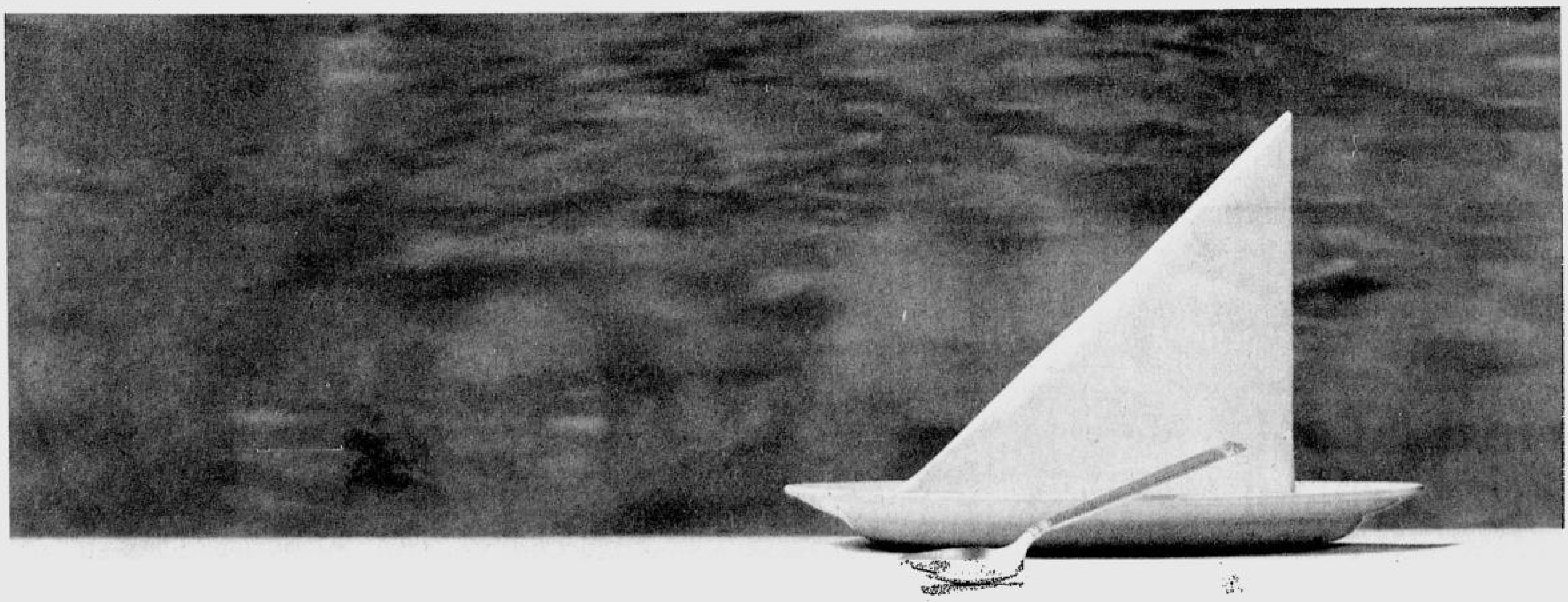

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HERE'S HOW:
1. Write your name, address, telephone number, age and signature on a NESTLÉ SUMMER GETAWAY entry form. If an entry form is not available, you may write on a piece of paper or on the label.
2. Attach entry form or piece of paper to a single wrapper, label, pouch or cap of any Nestlé or Goya Chocolates and Candies such as: Kit Kat, Nestlé Classic, Nestlé Classic Eclairs, Nestlé Crunch, Fox's, Goya Bite Sizes.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLÉ SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at selected outlets.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
Goya, Inc. - 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina City
Nestlé Philippines, Inc. - 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Or any Nestlé office near you.
5. Draw dates and Cut off Dates are as follows:
Draw date - June 28, 2002
Cut off date - June 14, 2002

RULES AND REGULATIONS:
1. All prizes are tax - free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.

SHOWCASE	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
Shore-to-Shore Holiday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Family Fiesta Package	[illegible]	2 Videoke Sets	2 Outdoor Picnic Packages

3. Total prizes to be given away per region (GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO) are as follows.
4. Draw date is on June 28, 2002.
5. On each draw date, entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. [illegible]
9. [illegible]
10. [illegible]
11. When claiming their prizes, winners must present the original telegram of notice and any two valid identification papers: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage/Driver's License or SSS ID.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestlé office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. Winners of the trips will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for the travel.
16. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
17. Goya, Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes.
18. [illegible]
19. [illegible]
20. [illegible]

Promo Period: April 1 - June 14, 2002

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0127 S.2002

Martin Nievera still packing them in at Onstage

From p. F3

phenomenal voice. I had three favorite songs—one was the song his son Ram pointed out to him one day in his car. It had lyrics like this: "I'm a beat in your heart/I'm a whisper in the rain… I'm already there/Take a look around/I'm the sunshine in your hair/I'm a shadow in the ground…" It was a moving song that could be from a father to a son, from a husband to a wife… for anyone who is away from someone they love dearly.

Another one was the amazing Broadway medley, where he went from songs like "Starlight Express" to "I Dreamed a Dream" (I'll forgive him the flubbed lyrics at the start—"I had a dream, I dreamed a dream…") to "This is the Moment." He *never* flinched. His voice never faltered. His voice is not of this world. "*Hindi siya tao!*" as my friend would say about people with amazing talent.

And I liked his impromptu duet with Kyla, "When I Fall in Love." Kyla is another performer whose talent makes her "not human." What a voice.

I also liked the way Martin gave the overplayed song, "Superman" a twist. I've always just been annoyed by that song, because it sounds like someone trying very hard to give Superman angst when he just doesn't have any. But then he put it in the context of his career—that of a singer, who just wants to keep on singing and to entertain. The song suddenly had depth for me.

Another factor that makes Martin's concerts so interesting is the production's use of multimedia. There were two screens in the back that showed pictures as Martin sang. There was also a camera that focused on faces in time to the music as Martin sang "Then I saw her *face*… and I'm a believer…" Also, when the band was introduced, each band member left his instrument to take a bow and then left the stage, but the music still continued, with Martin the only one singing live.

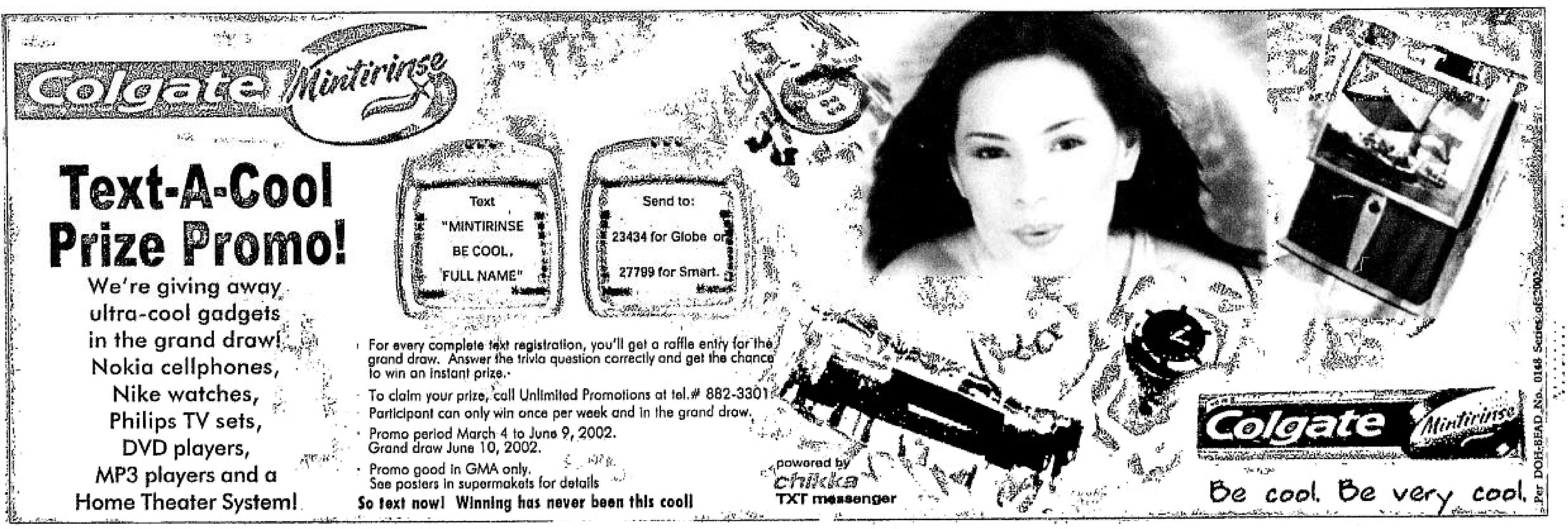
Hi-tech feel

Martin also had a TV prompter he always referred to, for his lyrics, and for the names of the people who requested certain songs in the concert. The way everything meshed together gave the concert a very hi-tech feel. For the moment that Martin left the stage to change costume, he got someone from the audience to lipsynch his last note onstage, complete with pose with the mic—yet another gimmick that would not have been possible without the hi-tech facilities of the concert.

Martin and his production staff know how to entertain. They have thought up the gimmicks, and Martin delivers them (and his songs) with excellent precision and ease. And audiences enjoy that kind of effort and cooperation. This member of the audience did. Immensely.

Martin resumes his shows tonight with additional performances on May 24, 25, 31 and all Fridays and Saturdays of June.

NIEVERA. Multimedia effects.



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- Promo period March 4 to June 9, 2002. Grand draw June 10, 2002.
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So text now! Winning has never been this cool!

Per DOH-BFAD No. 0148 Series of 2002

'Star Wars' series remains king of film franchises

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Its last installment proved a critical disappointment. Once the trendsetter on visual effects, it lost out in that category to an edgy upstart at the Academy Awards the last time around. Surrounded by fresh-faced film serials, it no longer holds clear claim as the year's most anticipated movie.

Sure thing

"Star Wars" may have rusted a bit in the 25 years since Luke, Han, Leia and Obi-Wan blasted into theaters. Yet as "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" opened this week, George Lucas' creation remains the Cadillac of film franchises, the surest sure thing that a blockbuster-minded movie industry can deliver.

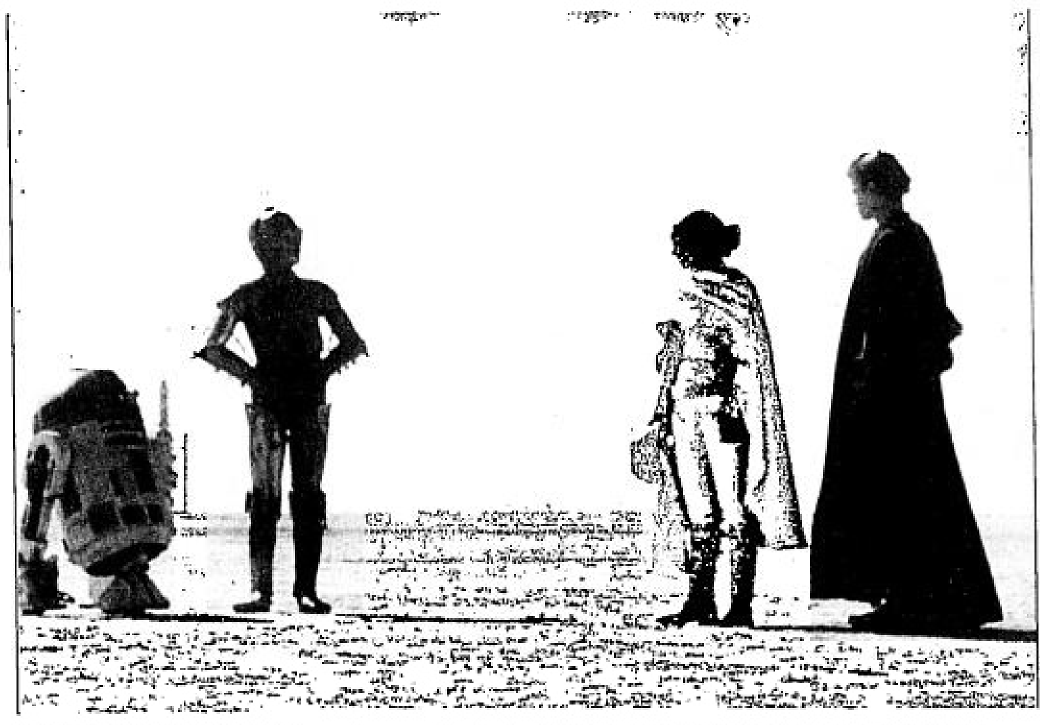
Its previous chapters account for four of the top 13 grossing movies of all-time domestically. Fans camp out at theaters a month or more before a "Star Wars" film opens to be first in line to see it.

And consider "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace." After waiting 16 years for the first prequel to the original trilogy, audiences almost universally found something to deride in "Phantom Menace," a critical dud that sacrificed story to special effects and introduced the loathed buffoon Jar Jar Binks.

Loyal fans

What other film franchise could produce a mediocre movie that disappoints the most loyal fans yet still rakes in more than $900 million worldwide and $431 million in the United States and Canada alone?

"Sure, the last movie was not what people hoped it would be," said Barrie Osborne, a producer on "The Lord of the Rings" franchise and executive producer on "The Matrix," which beat "Phantom Menace" on visual effects and two other categories at the Oscars for 1999.



"PHANTOM MENACE." A mediocre episode that disappointed the most loyal fans yet still raked in $900 M worldwide.

"But I think everyone will want to see the new 'Star Wars.' It's something we all grew up with, and the whole body of work is more powerful than any one of the films. This powerful, mythic story George originated way back still captures the imagination, and people want to see what happens next."

What happens next sounds more promising than "Phantom Menace," with early buzz from people who have seen "Attack of the Clones" hinting that it's a better film. Even the cast is more enthusiastic this time.

"I really love it. I personally like this film a lot better," said Natalie Portman, who returns as Padme Amidala, reunited with her Jedi pals Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and the now grown Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen).

Gorgeous

"I get really bored in action movies, but I was at the edge of my seat with my mouth open," said Portman, who saw the finished film last weekend. "It's so gorgeous. It's got a great story, a real arc. You really care about the characters."

In the past, "Star Wars" sequels or prequels clearly were the film events of the year. Given the record opening of "Spider-Man" and anticipation for this fall's "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings" sequels, "Star Wars" now has heavy competition for the title of most hotly awaited movie.

STARWARS/ p. G3

"CATS" composer Lord Andrew Lloyd-Weber (center) sings with original cast members onstage at the New London Theater. AFP

'Cats' ends its run in London after 21 years

LONDON--Blockbuster British musical "Cats" was ringing down the curtain for the last time in London on Saturday after a record breaking run of 21 years.

Giant screen

The final show was restricted to an invited audience but fans were being given the chance to watch it free on a giant screen in nearby Covent Garden district of central London, a spokeswoman for the New London Theatre said.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber hit, dubbed the world's most successful musical after breaking records around the world, has been seen in London by an estimated eight million people since its first performance on May 11, 1981.

Based on poems by T.S. Eliot, "Cats" was decried as "theatrical lunacy" when the producers struggled to find backers in 1981. Today they have been repaid 2,500 times over.

Cameron Mackintosh, who produced the show, said he was proud and happy that the show had been so successful.

"To have anything that has run 21 years and to go out on a great high like this is fantastic," Mackintosh told Sky TV.

18 productions

"We're both very proud and very happy and of course a bit tearful at the same time." While closing in London, "Cats" is still being seen in 18 productions around the world from Japan to Denmark, South Korea to Australia.

But the London box office had been struggling for months to break even. A dramatic drop in tourist visitors after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States put the last nail in the coffin of "Cats," where up to half of the audience are tourists.

With its closure, Lloyd Webber has turned his eyes eastwards with a new musical, "Bombay Dreams," which opens in London on June 19.

It tells the rags-to-riches story of a Bollywood film director's daughter who falls in love with a poor boy from the slums. *Reuters*

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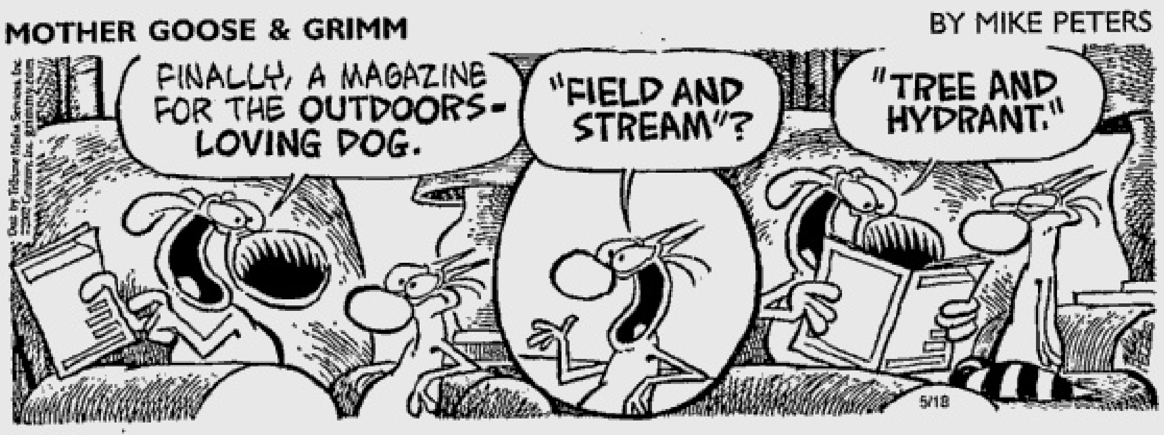
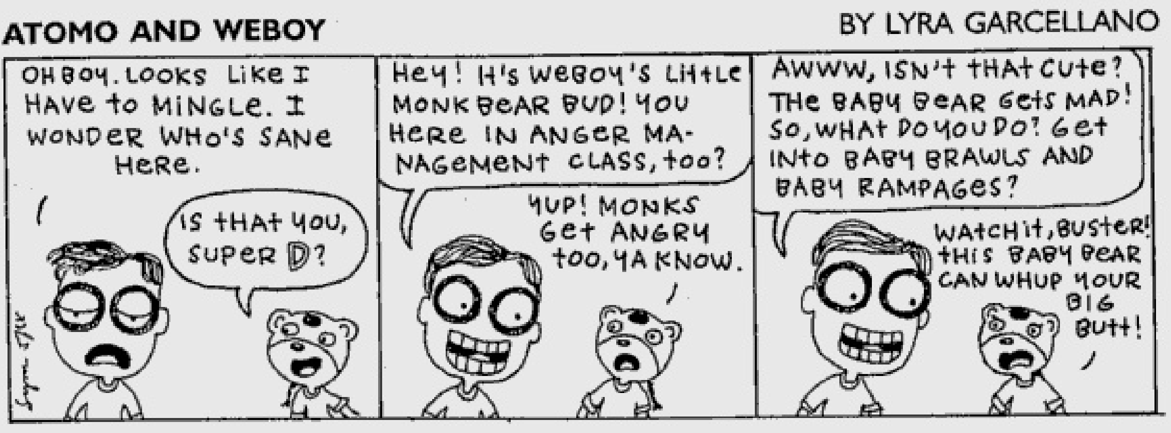
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


FINALLY, A MAGAZINE FOR THE OUTDOORS-LOVING DOG.
"FIELD AND STREAM"?
"TREE AND HYDRANT."
5/18

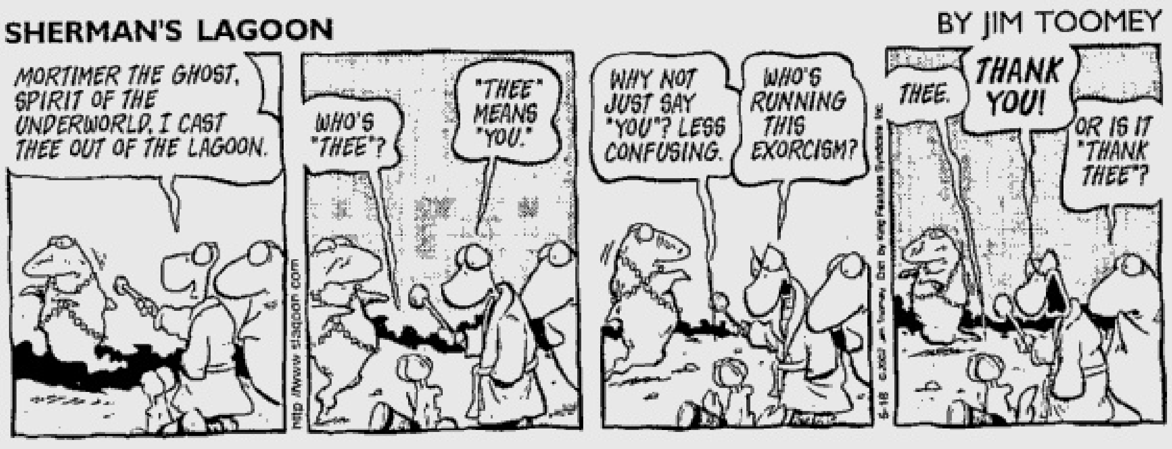
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH BOY. LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO MINGLE. I WONDER WHO'S SANE HERE.
IS THAT YOU, SUPER D?
HEY! IT'S WEBOY'S LITTLE MONK BEAR BUD! YOU HERE IN ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS, TOO?
YUP! MONKS GET ANGRY TOO, YA KNOW.
AWWW, ISN'T THAT CUTE? THE BABY BEAR GETS MAD! SO, WHAT DO YOU DO? GET INTO BABY BRAWLS AND BABY RAMPAGES?
WATCH IT, BUSTER! THIS BABY BEAR CAN WHUP YOUR BIG BUTT!

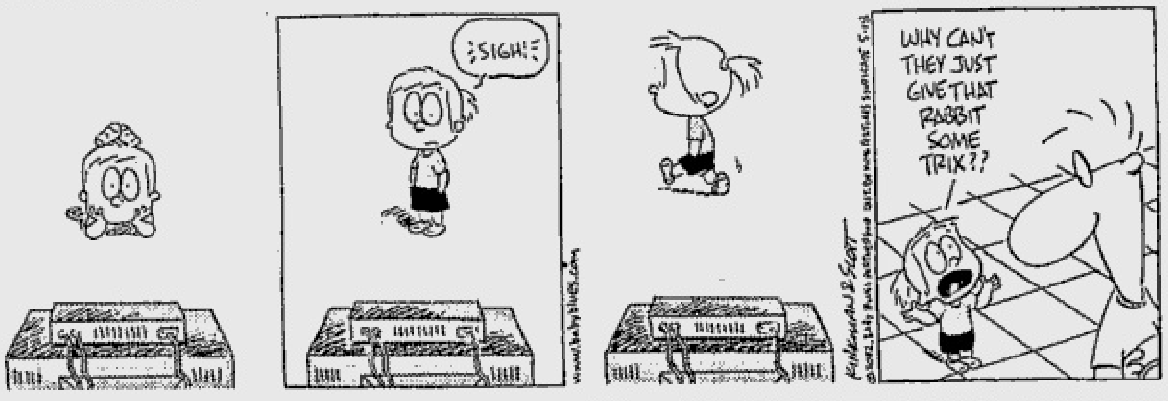
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MORTIMER THE GHOST, SPIRIT OF THE UNDERWORLD, I CAST THEE OUT OF THE LAGOON.
WHO'S "THEE"?
"THEE" MEANS "YOU."
WHY NOT JUST SAY "YOU"? LESS CONFUSING.
WHO'S RUNNING THIS EXORCISM?
THEE.
THANK YOU!
OR IS IT "THANK THEE"?
http://www.slagoon.com
5-18

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


¡SIGH!
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST GIVE THAT RABBIT SOME TRIX??
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Straait, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Reggie Jackson

Happy Birthday: You'll have increased organizational skills and the ability to work hard, so business success will follow. A more conservative outlook may prevail, with a stronger sense of family and tradition. This will be a hectic but rewarding year as long as you properly gauge yourself and your time. Your numbers are 3, 5, 18, 27, 32, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans to get out with friends. You will attract plenty of attention if you just get out and have some fun. You should also try your hand at doing something that is creative, entertaining and thought-provoking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Problems at home will end up costing you. You have to buckle down and do whatever is necessary in order to save a little cash. Starting a small home-based business may help pay some of the bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be able to talk your friends and family into seeing things your way. If you are outgoing and well-informed you can accomplish whatever you set out to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone may tell you about a job prospect that sounds interesting. You may want to take a little time out to sort through your personal papers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your high energy coupled with your entertaining nature will put you center stage today. Your dramatic approach to everything you do will bring a rise from someone who is close to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have a secret involvement today. Don't put yourself or your reputation at risk. The possibility of running into a colleague in an unusual place is apparent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be up for a challenge and ready to pursue whatever avenue it takes to help people in need. Your dedication and desire to do something important will bring you in contact with people who can help you in return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is not the best time to confront problems. Your personal life may be in limbo if you have been neglecting your responsibilities. Put your energy into physical activities rather than mental debates.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will make interesting and profitable new contacts through new groups or organizations you join. Mix business with pleasure and you will be able to set the stage for future advancement.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is the day to do something good for yourself as well as for others. You can make amends with an old friend or lover through correspondence. Don't hesitate to let him or her know how you feel.

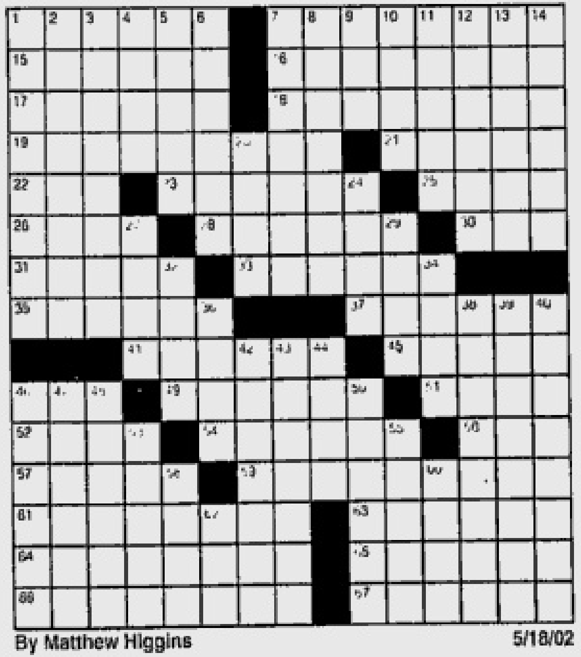
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opposition can be expected. Keep your personal issues to yourself. Don't lend money to friends or relatives. You are not likely to be paid back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't overindulge or you will pay the price this time. Do whatever is required in order to look and feel your best. If you are health-conscious and goal-oriented, your day will turn out just fine.

Birthday Baby: You will get involved in groups that fight for the underdog. You will be happy in your personal life and achievements. You will always want to have a place to retreat to where no one will bother you or invade your privacy.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

5/18/02

ACROSS
1 Yuletide quaff
7 Ingredient in paper
15 Mexican shawl
16 Conferer of holy orders
17 Short-billed wading bird
18 Come forth again
19 Art critic Harold
21 Unbelievable buy
22 Double bend
23 Apelike
25 Elusive Himalayan
26 Leveling wedge
28 Debtor
30 Moon vehicle, briefly
31 Gaucho's address
33 Gardener's scoop
35 Kuralt's replacement
37 Thin slice
41 Spasmodic movement
45 Book's author and title location
46 Drink slowly
49 Amused observer
51 Couch
52 Granny for one
54 Rubs out
56 __ Alamos
57 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
59 Those in agreement
61 Interprets wrongly
63 Betrothed
64 Woman with a patron
65 Draws out
66 Rational state
67 Discourages from acting

DOWN
1 Real strong Java
2 Overshoes
3 Earning before deductions
4 Principal church area
5 Some golf tournaments
6 Pet rodent
7 Anxious one
8 Cooking herb
9 Poem of praise
10 Aswan and Hoover
11 Devoutness
12 Remove from a spool
13 Pope's representative
14 Early round, briefly
20 Discharge
24 CNN word
27 Debatable
29 Conger and moray
32 Propels a shell
34 Rims
36 Roosevelt coin
38 Thuggery
39 Hatchet man
40 Evaluate anew
42 Outspoken denunciations
43 School groups
44 Dame Myra
46 Restricts sparingly
47 P.M. Gandhi
48 Lethal substance
50 Shortened sail
53 Rich cake
55 Sneeringly derogatory
58 Adolescent
60 Emotionally strained
62 Develop to maturity

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	I	A	■	D	R	A	M	■	R	E	L	E	T
A	R	A	M	■	V	O	T	E	■	O	R	O	N	O
B	I	G	B	A	D	W	O	L	F	S	L	A	I	N
S	E	O	U	L	■	S	P	L	I	T	E	N	D	S
■	■	■	S	B	A	■	■	O	A	R	■	■	■	■
T	W	O	H	U	R	T	I	N	T	U	M	B	L	E
H	E	S	■	M	E	A	D	■	■	M	O	R	O	N
R	A	T	A	■	S	N	E	E	R	■	W	O	R	D
O	V	I	N	E	■	■	A	L	A	S	■	I	R	E
B	E	A	N	S	T	A	L	K	S	C	A	L	E	D
■	■	■	■	T	O	G	■	■	H	U	N	■	■	■
E	M	B	A	R	R	A	S	S	■	B	Y	T	E	S
T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E	I	N	A	W	A	L	K
A	E	I	O	U	■	S	E	M	I	■	A	L	A	I
S	T	E	M	S	■	I	N	S	P	■	Y	E	N	S

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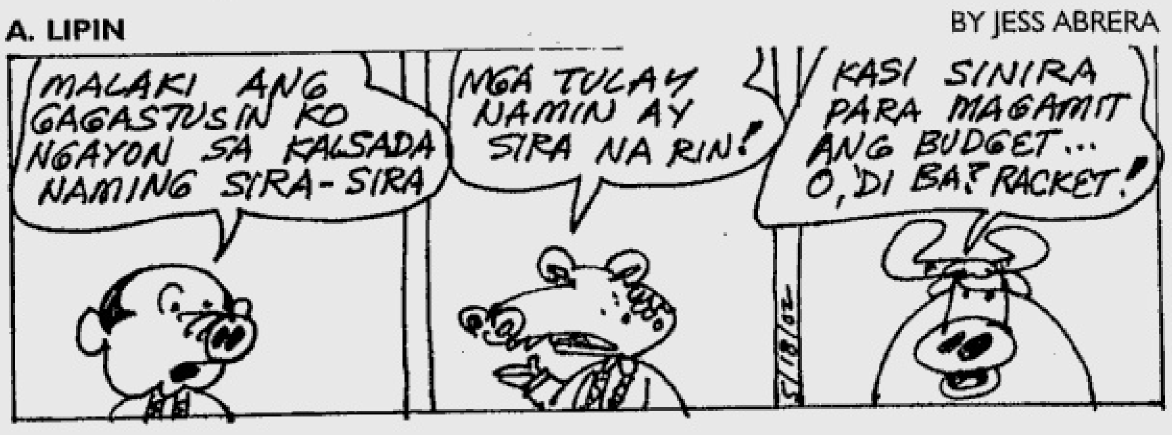
5/18/02

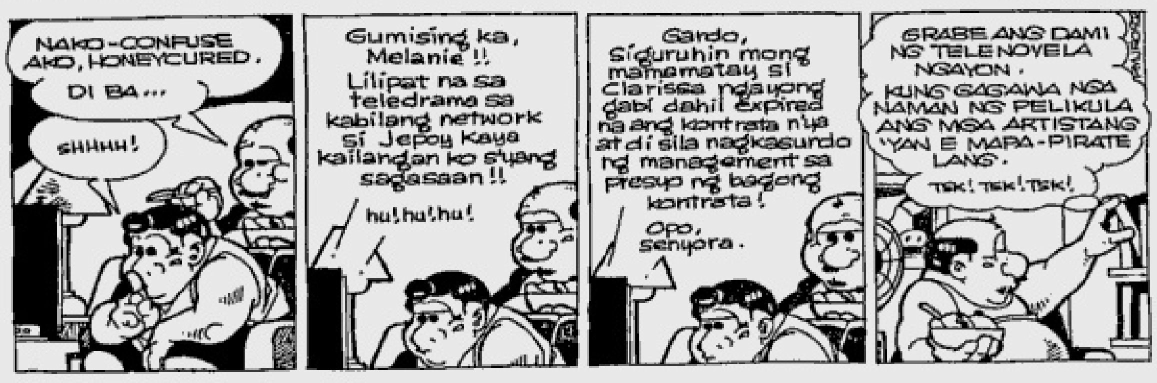
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKI ANG GAGASTUSIN KO NGAYON SA KALSADA NAMING SIRA-SIRA
NGA TULAY NAMIN AY SIRA NA RIN!
KASI SINIRA PARA MAGAMIT ANG BUDGET... O, DI BA? RACKET!
5/18/02

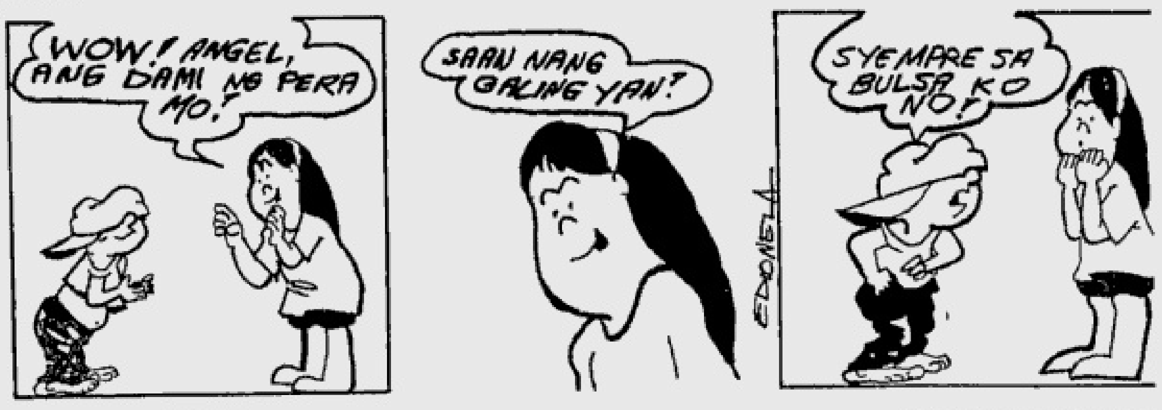
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKO-CONFUSE AKO, HONEYCURED.
DI BA...
SHHHH!
Gumising ka, Melanie!! Lilipat na sa teledrama sa kabilang network si Jepoy kaya kailangan ko s'yang sagasaan!!
hu! hu! hu!
Gardo, siguruhin mong mamamatay si Clarissa ngayong gabi dahil expired na ang kontrata n'ya at di sila nagkasundo ng management sa presyo ng bagong kontrata!
Opo, senyora.
GRABE ANG DAMI NG TELENOVELA NGAYON.
KUNG GAGAWA NGA NAMAN NG PELIKULA ANG MGA ARTISTANG 'YAN E MAPA-PIRATE LANG.
TSK! TSK! TSK!

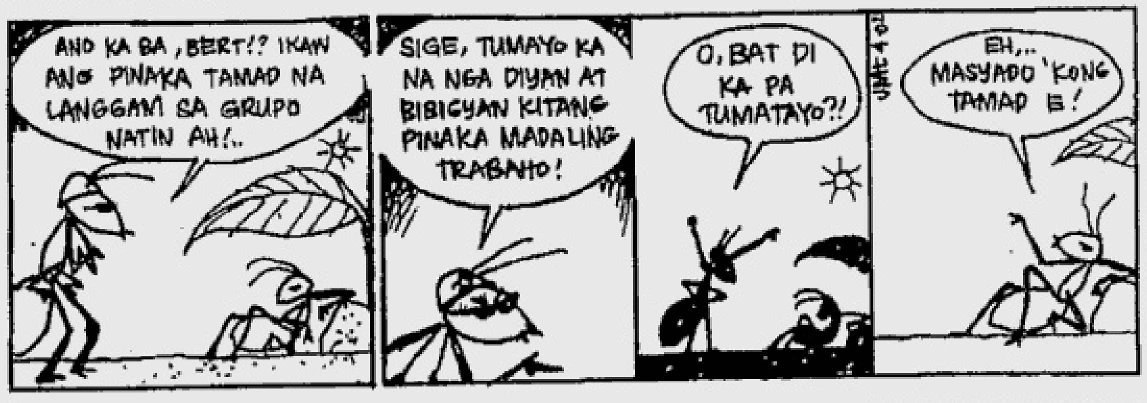
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WOW! ANGEL, ANG DAMI NG PERA MO!
SAAN NANG GALING YAN?
SYEMPRE SA BULSA KO NO!
EDIONELA

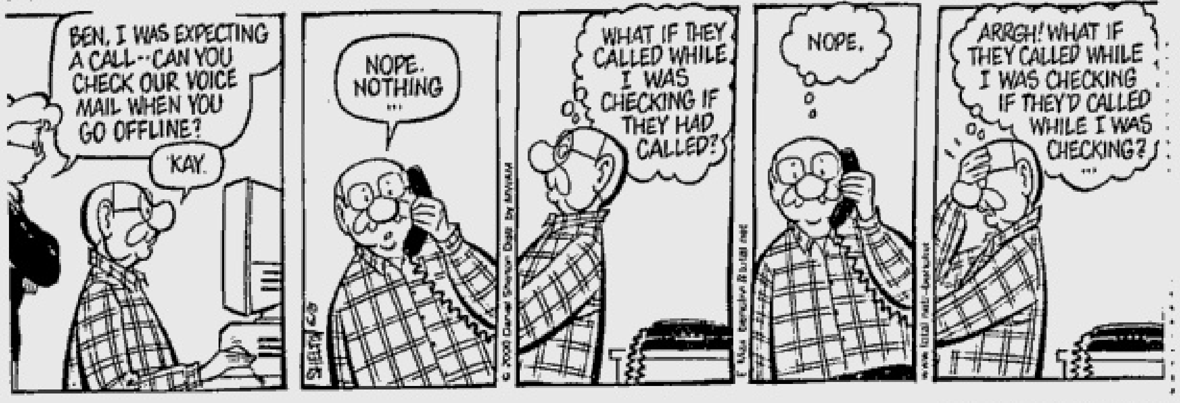
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO KA BA, BERT!? IKAW ANG PINAKA TAMAD NA LANGGAM SA GRUPO NATIN AH!..
SIGE, TUMAYO KA NA NGA DIYAN AT BIBIGYAN KITANG PINAKA MADALING TRABAHO!
O, BAT DI KA PA TUMATAYO?!
EH,.. MASYADO 'KONG TAMAD E!

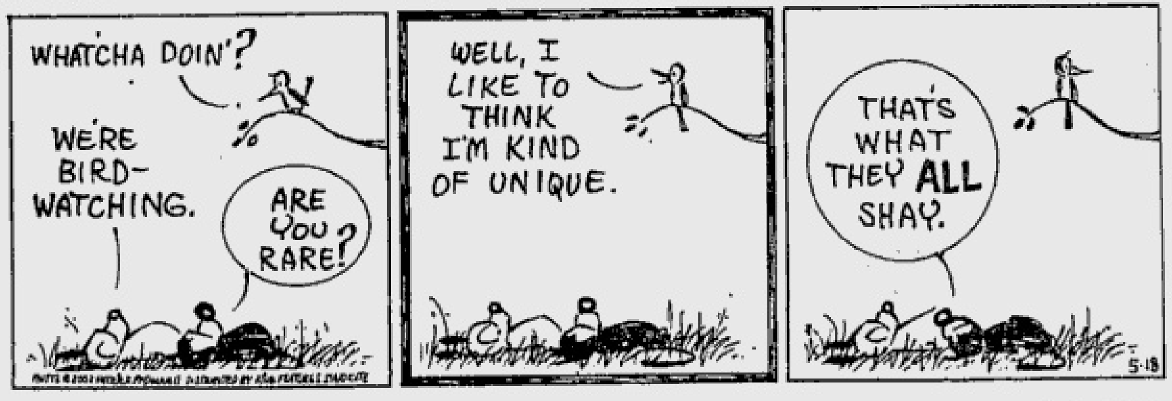
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, I WAS EXPECTING A CALL--CAN YOU CHECK OUR VOICE MAIL WHEN YOU GO OFFLINE?
'KAY.
NOPE. NOTHING ...
WHAT IF THEY CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING IF THEY HAD CALLED?
NOPE.
ARRGH! WHAT IF THEY CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING IF THEY'D CALLED WHILE I WAS CHECKING? ...

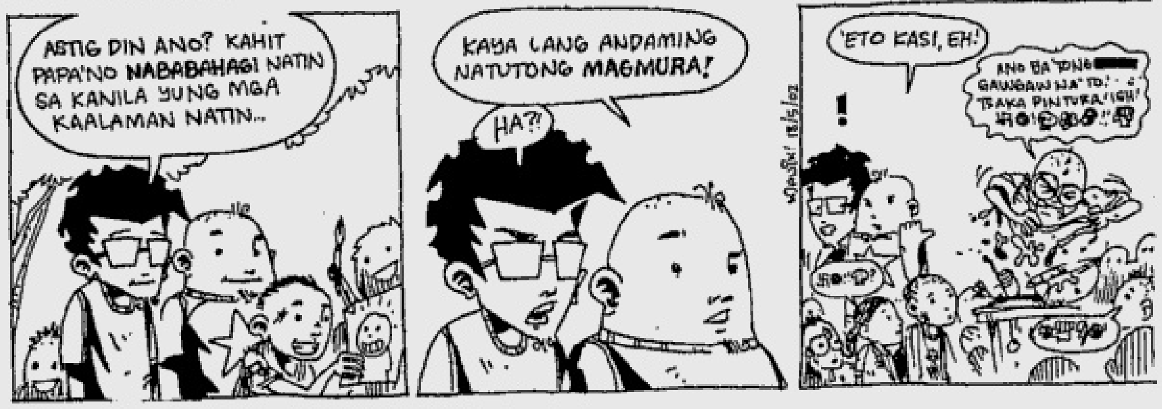
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHATCHA DOIN'?
WE'RE BIRD-WATCHING.
ARE YOU RARE?
WELL, I LIKE TO THINK I'M KIND OF UNIQUE.
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SHAY.
5-18

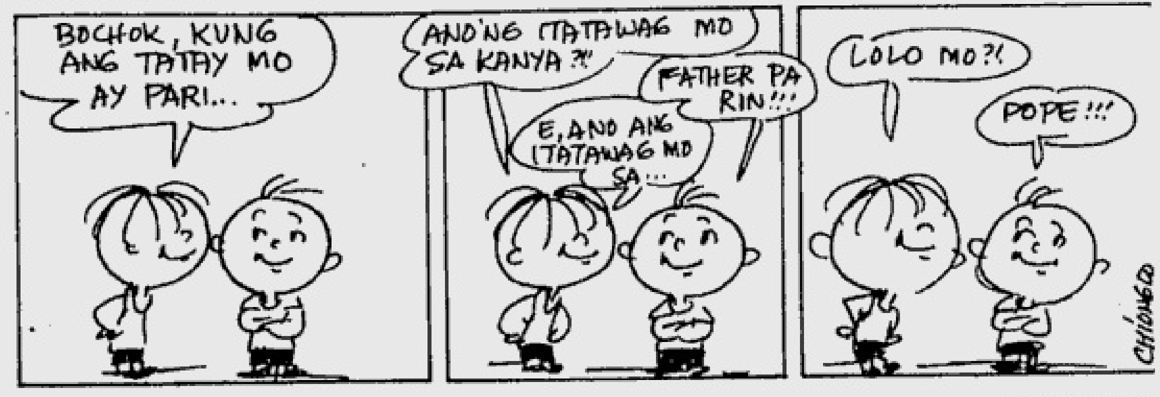
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ASTIG DIN ANO? KAHIT PAPA'NO NABABAHAGI NATIN SA KANILA YUNG MGA KAALAMAN NATIN..
KAYA LANG ANDAMING NATUTONG MAGMURA!
HA?!
'ETO KASI, EH!
ANO BA 'TONG GAWGAW NA 'TO! 'TSAKA PINTURA! 'ISH!

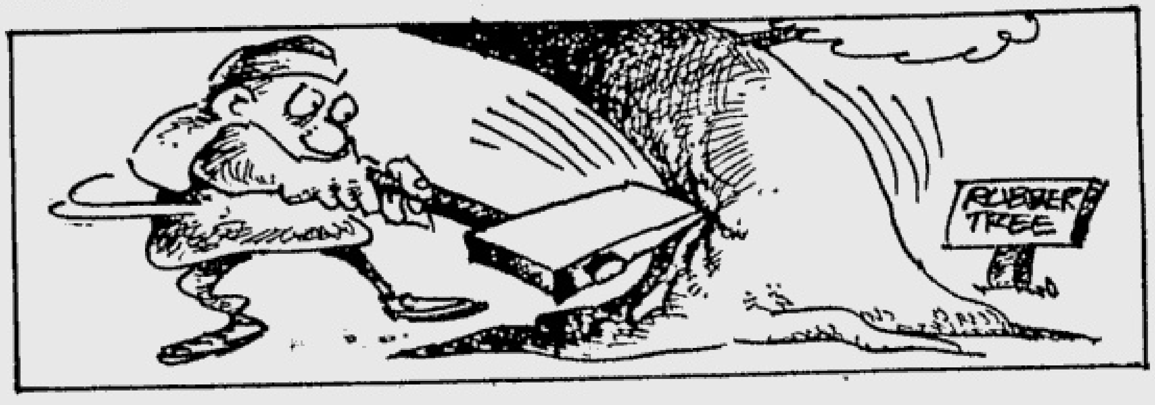
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, KUNG ANG TATAY MO AY PARI...
ANO'NG ITATAWAG MO SA KANYA?!
FATHER PA RIN!!!
E, ANO ANG ITATAWAG MO SA...
LOLO MO?!
POPE!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


RUBBER TREE

'Star Wars' series remains . . .

From p. G1

CHRISTENSEN AND PORTMAN as the ill-fated lovers.

Unlike the 3,000-theater-plus launches of today's Hollywood, with its fixation on huge opening weekends, the original "Star. Wars" premiered on just 32 screens on Wednesday, May 25, 1977. The procedure then often was to start slowly, letting positive buzz on a film spread as the release widened to more theaters.

It worked perfectly on "Star Wars," which distributor 20th Century Fox expanded to 43 screens by that Friday, with the film grossing $1.55 million over the four-day Memorial Day weekend, according to box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

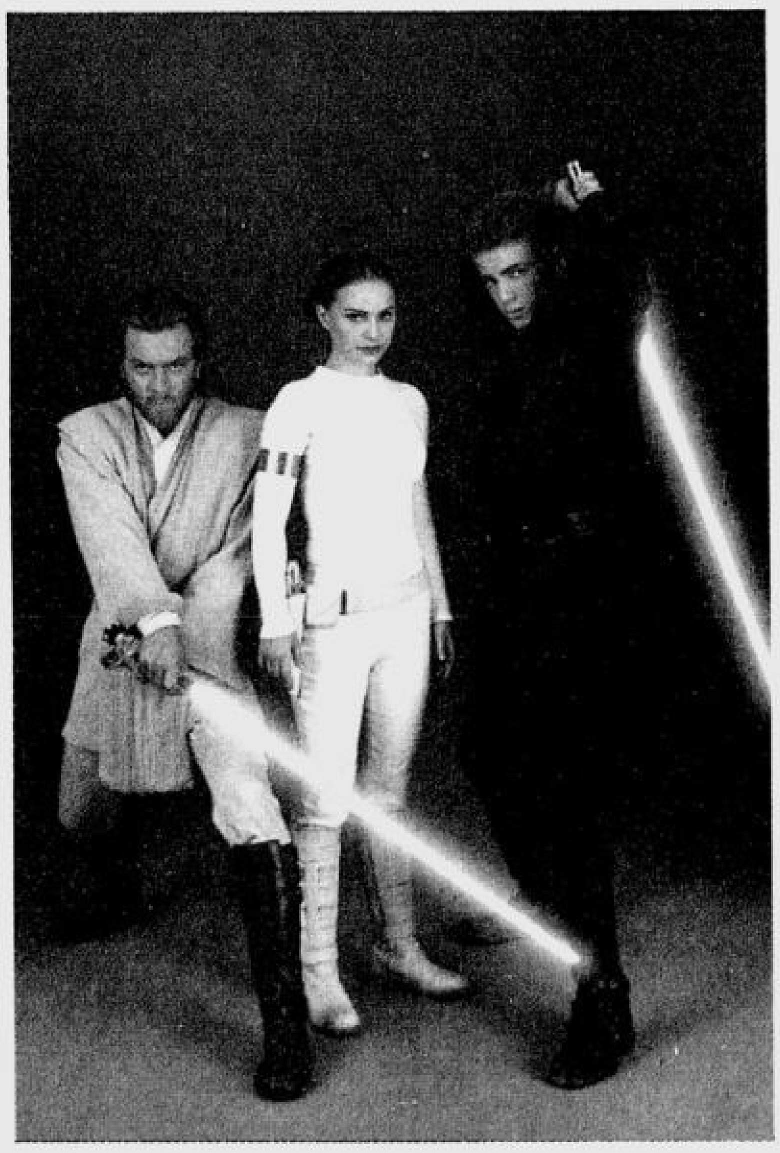
As it expanded, its total take during that initial run hit $221.3 million, the equivalent of about $560 million when the 1977 average ticket price of $2.23 is adjusted for inflation. "Star Wars" was such a phenomenon that it took in $101 million more in four reissues within just five years after its debut.

17 times

"That was the first movie I ever saw," said Ben Affleck, whose new film, "The Sum of All Fears," opens two weeks after "Attack of the Clones." Affleck, who turned 5 the summer "Star Wars" opened, said he cajoled his way into seeing it 17 times.

"I just kept going, just kept asking to see it again and again. It revolutionized movies. It blew my mind," Affleck said. "I'll be right up there in the front of the line for the new one. The only thing now hopefully is I'll be able to scam some tickets and not have to camp out."

With the 1997 special-edition releases of the original trilogy, the first film—officially called "Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope"—has totaled $461 million domestically, second to "Titanic" at $601 million.



"STAR Wars" leads Ewan Macgregor, Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen.

Including all reissues, "Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back" is No. 13 at $290 million, and "Episode VI—Return of the Jedi" is No. 9 with $309 million.

With the hype on "Phantom Menace" as the first "Star Wars" chapter since 1983, some Hollywood analysts had thought it would do better than its $431 million haul. Many found the story weak and the characters and dialogue flat compared with the first three films.

"The other movies were about defeating the empire and overcoming evil and living for the greater good," said Tariq Jalil, writer-director of "A Galaxy Far Far Away," a documentary examining "Star Wars" fandom that hits video stores two days before "Attack of the Clones" opens on May 16.

Trade-war conflict

"As far as I can tell, 'Phantom Menace' was about taxes, which doesn't lend itself to great emotional attachment," said Jalil, referring to that installment's trade-war conflict.

Visually, "Phantom Menace" was a special-effects advance over the original trilogy, using computer animation to create armies of characters and elaborate space battles. The more subtle slow-motion and freeze-frame effects of "The Matrix" resonated more with viewers, though.

"It may have been a victim of its own success," said Jonathan Kuntz, a film historian at the University of California in Los Angeles. "'Star Wars' set the standard for special effects, and there's been many, many films since then with special effects in the Lucas vein. So 'Phantom Menace' wasn't anything radically new."

Focusing on the boyhood of Anakin, the father of Luke and Leia who eventually transforms into the villain Darth Vader, "Phantom Menace" also was more of a kiddie film than the earlier three.

For all the criticism, "Phantom Menace" obviously offered something that audiences wanted, said Rick McCallum, producer of the current "Star Wars" trilogy.

"When you look at the difference between films that gross $100 million and $200 million, once you're over that $175-$200 million mark, people have to love your film. That is the only thing that drives it," McCallum said. "I couldn't be happier with our $431 million gross. It's a major achievement."

Initial take

Adjusted for inflation, "Phantom Menace" ranks behind the original as the second most successful of the "Star Wars" movies in their first runs. The $252 million that "Return of the Jedi" grossed in 1983 translates to $404 million in 1999, when "Phantom Menace" came out. The $182 million initial take of "Empire Strikes Back" equates to $341 million in 1999 dollars.

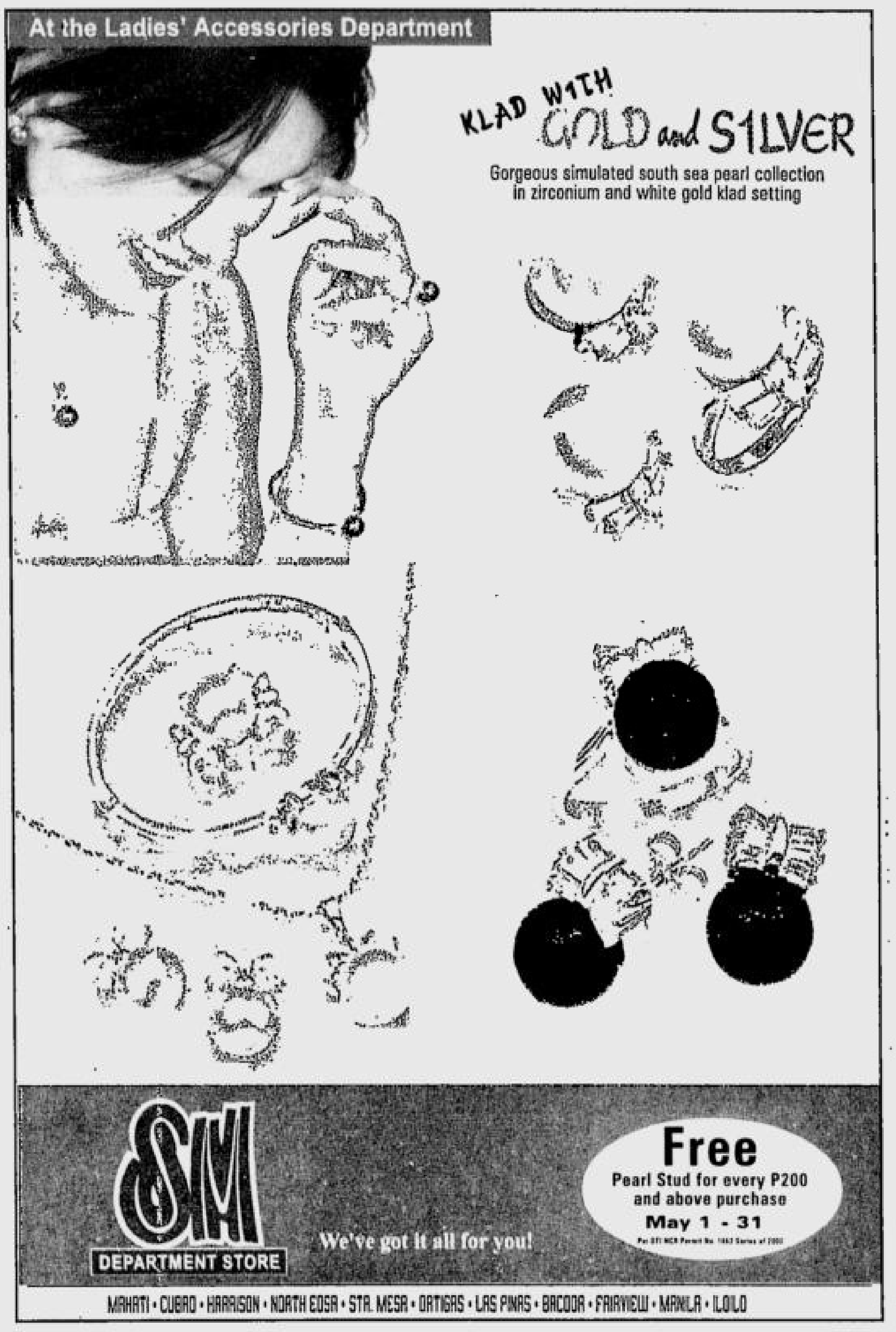
Such comparisons are difficult given studio preoccupation today with immediate returns over the longer-haul approach of 25 years ago. Who knows how much "Return of the Jedi" and "Empire Strikes Back" might have netted with today's heavier marketing push and wider release?

A better parallel is last year's top-grossing film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which opened in a record 3,672 theaters and delivered a faithful adaptation of the book that generally pleased devoted fans of J.K. Rowling's boy wizard.

Both "Harry Potter" and "Phantom Menace" grossed $105 million in their first five days. Yet "Phantom Menace" had greater staying power, ultimately taking in $114 million more than "Harry Potter."

"'Star Wars' is one of the surest bets there is," said Bill Warren, a science-fiction expert whose books include "Keep Watching the Skies!: American Science Fiction Movies of the '50s." "Why do people go see John Wayne movies? They've got John Wayne in them. People see 'Star Wars' movies because they're full of 'Star Wars' stuff. There's a familiarity and affection for the material.

"All the new movie has to be is a little better than 'Phantom Menace' and people will go bananas." *AP*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VENUE AND DATE

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MERCURY DRUGSTORE, GLORIETTA MAY 18-19
MERCURY DRUGSTORE, URBAN MAY 20-21
MERCURY DRUGSTORE, DILIMAN MAY 22-24
MERCURY DRUGSTORE, SHANGRI-LA MAY 25-26

LUZON
SOUTH SUPERMARKET, STA. ROSA MAY 18-19
SOUTH SUPERMARKET, LOS BAÑOS MAY 24-26

VISAYAS
SUPER LEE PLAZA, DUMAGUETE CITY MAY 18-19
FORTUNE MART, DUMAGUETE CITY MAY 20-23
AMORGANDA, BAIS CITY MAY 24-29
ONG SUPERSTORE, BAIS CITY MAY 30-31

NORTH MINDANAO
ORORAMA SUPER, CAGAYAN DE ORO MAY 18-19
CROWN THRIFTY, BUTUAN MAY 20

Judy Ann's birthday special suffers from poor musicality

By Nestor U. Torre

TWO Fridays ago, Judy Ann Santos had a big birthday special on Channel 2 that was both informative and disaffecting. First, the informative elements:

Anecdotes

Some childhood friends shared anecdotes about her early years, how even then she already liked to act, to "practice" dramatic scenes in front of a mirror.

When her mother had to go to Canada to work, little Judy Ann felt lonely. This, plus her pretty face and expressive eyes, must have made her a natural for the weepy, *kawawa* roles that she essayed early on in her first TV soaps and tearjerkers.

A portion toured the many houses Juday lived in before she was able to make enough money to buy her family their own place. This "home tour" was reminiscent of a similar feature we saw years ago on the many homes of Nora Aunor. Thus, the feature on Juday's homes subliminally implied that she is the young superstar of *this* decade.

Hard worker

As Juday went from one weepy TV show to another, her co-workers recalled her early plus points: she could "internalize" a scene's emotional requirements fast, she was a hard worker, and she was "not *maarte.*"

These plus points would serve her well in her determined bid to become a star. Even better, her fellow actors say that these positive traits have remained with her to this day, an even more impressive achievement.

When her folks were away, Judy Ann found a second family in the Herreras, actor RJ Herrera and his parents, who treated her as one of their own.

After Juday became a star, she didn't take her fans for granted, realizing that her stardom was their gift to her.

Businesses

When she made enough money, she financed a number of businesses, proving that she had a savvy head on her shoulders. This also showed how insecure she was about staying on in show biz, which is notorious for its flighty sense of loyalty, gratitude and permanence.

Another feature detailed Juday's successful regimen for losing weight, which has done a lot to further shine up her career.

Thankfully, Juday's stellar success hasn't gone to her head. In fact, some of her co-workers reveal that she sometimes has to be "reminded" that she's a popular celebrity and bankable name.

SANTOS. Doesn't take her fans for granted.

Unknown to many pole, Juday has a number of charities.

—What interesting revelations! Unfortunately, the goodwill that these "biographical" features earned was eroded by other parts of the birthday special that left some viewers disaffected, and sometimes downright irritated.

Low points

Most of these low points had to do with the poor musicality of the special. Judy Ann's so-so, "whisper-singing" was "showcased" in several numbers, causing the show to lose energy and aural interest.

Juday was also made to "sing" with her mother and sister in a weak and lethargic number that really tested viewers' patience, not to mention endurance. Interestingly enough, it was Judy Ann's mother who came off best of all in the singing department. Maybe *she* should cut a record?

Sole survivor

Another musical number that was hard to take was the one that had Juday "sing" with Ruffa Gutierrez and Sunshine Cruz. In that number, the solo survivor was Sunshine.

Other weak musical numbers involved Dingdong Dantes and a weirdly giggly Piolo Pascual (he sang well, however). And, when Juday "sang" with Sharon Cuneta, the singing megastar was hard-put to tone down her singing so that Judy Ann wouldn't be completely upstaged and out-sung!

Aside from her weak singing, Judy Ann also turned out to be a phlegmatic host, and her lack of energy and focus weakened the special's impact. We liked the show's biographical revelations, but as musical entertainment, the special suffered from a debilitating lack of vitality and genuine musicality.

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BAGUIO CITY
WHEREVER WE GO WITH THE FAMILY MALAKAS ANG SIGNAL!
PUERTO PRINCESA
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ALBUM REVIEW

Jewel and Ashanti sing about love

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

`This Way'
Jewel
Warner Music

JEWEL'S "This Way" and "Everybody Needs Someone Sometime" still evoke carefree memories of love. Their syrupy lyrics and sentimental melodies still tug at the heartstrings, long after these songs have ceased being hits.

Positive attitude

After taking a two-year leave from recording, it's amazing how Jewel can maintain her positive attitude on love and life. She manages to put her own stamp on each song.

"Love Me, Just Leave Me Alone" can be another classical sentimental song in the mold of "You Were Meant for Me." But "Break Me" ranks high as the ultimate break-up song. The lyrics will "milk" all your frustrations and heartaches. They impart the emotional pain and sense of sacrifice that the song requires.

"Grey Matter" and "The New Wild West" seem out-of-place, sounding like tunes that Alanis Morrisette would sing. They're gritty, but Jewel has always been known for slow, emotional songs, so the effort to sound different shows.

However, this album shows that Jewel's heart is still in the right place: with the masses.

> The album's syrupy lyrics and sentimental melodies still tug at the heart

'Ashanti'
Ashanti
MCA Universal Inc.

It's an eclectic mix of pop, dance, R and B, electronica, showing that Ashanti is willing to experiment without losing her identity in the process.

Feel the groove

"Voodoo," "Movies" and "Dreams" have lyrics that don't make much sense, but their melodies are good. You shouldn't look for deep meanings, just use the music to feel the groove.

"Rescue" and "Call" soothe the senses. You can almost picture two people lost in their own worlds as you listen. The The tempos evoke images of sensuality and longing, and she pulls it off.

"Baby" is adventurous. The beat tries to push listeners to enter the spotlight and get into the groove. The singergives the impression that she's in command because of her vibrancy.

"Over" and "Unfoolish" sound like unfinished poetry set to music. These songs remind us to appreciate the things we take for granted. They urge us never to be too busy to appreciate life. If only for these two songs, you should listen to this album.

ASHANTI. Willing to experiment.

Sali na sa
Kids'r'rrific
Promo!

Junior
INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2002 ✧ 16 PAGES ✧ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 32

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Anime Art Contest Page 5
Story: Popo and Her Awesome Afternoon -Nap Escape Page 8
Shirley's Pets Page 14

Awesome Authors

RCBC's yearly storywriting contest brings you the best from Luzon and Visayas

By Natasha Vizcarra
Photos by Mandy Navasero

THIS summer, four fabulous young storytellers from all over the country won an award for their work. They wrote stories about Mother Earth and bagged the grand prize in the 8th Kuwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan. It's a yearly contest sponsored by a bank that was named after a very famous storyteller. The Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation is named after our National Hero Jose Rizal. Call it RCBC for short.

Get to know these awesome authors from Zambales, Benguet, Naga and Metro Manila and read their winning stories soon in Junior Inquirer!

Naga's Musical Brainy Kid

When 12-year-old **Dominic Agustin B. Briquera** won the RCBC contest, his school's principal rented an open-top jeep for a one-kid parade. Dominic was driven around Naga Central School II to the cheers of his schoolmates, friends, family and townmates.

Dominic's winning story, "My Grandma's Legacy," is about one Christmas when a family gives up its usual Christmas routine for something more meaningful. They choose to spend it in a seaside-town where the main character's grandmother lives. Thus it becomes truly a season for family and bonding between generations.

Dominic not only writes well. He's the band leader of his school's Drum and Lyre Corps. He's the editor in chief of the school's newsletter and has won in many competitions like quiz bees, journalism contests and battle-of-the-brains-type contests.

Lucky Dominic just won a scholarship in Ateneo de Naga High School. He's a kid who believes you just have to give every little thing your best shot: even your assignments! Don't ever do them "for completion only," he says.

Awesome/ p.3

GLAD IN GLADE. Dominic daydreams on the grasslands of Pecuaria Valley, Camarines Norte.

World Scope

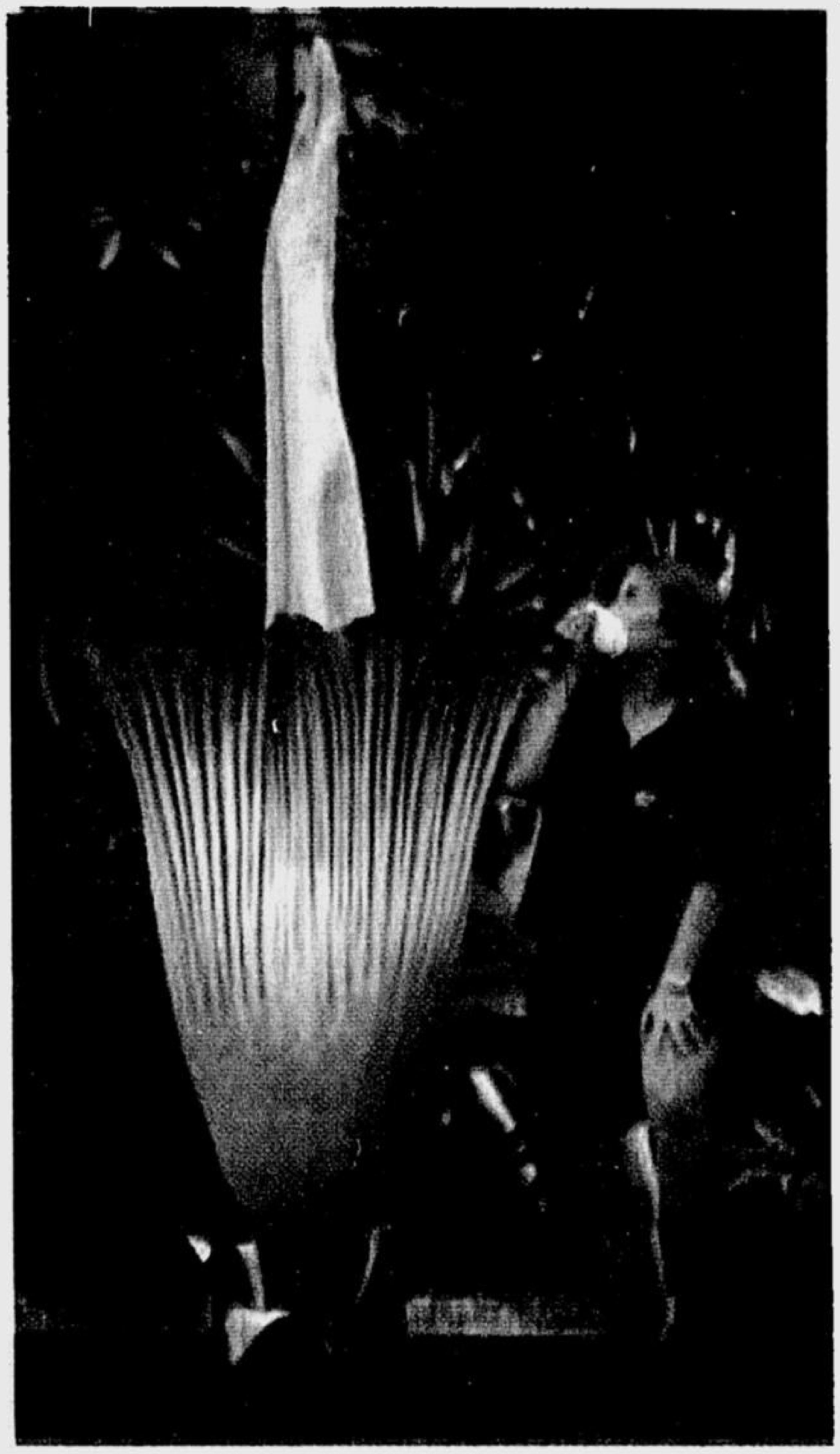
Seoul, South Korea
Puruchuco, Peru

Bear-y Good Births!

CINDY, one of five sibling brown bear cubs, plays with her protector and friend—eight-month-old Rotweiller named Cyro—at their caretaker's home. The cub comes from a litter of 5 born at Europe's third largest Zoo in Kosice on Jan. 6 and are the first recorded case of quintuplet bear cubs born in captivity. The five cubs are the third litter for 14-year-old parents Mata and Kubo. They were separated from their mother after 6 weeks and rely on their human parents for survival. ***Reuters***

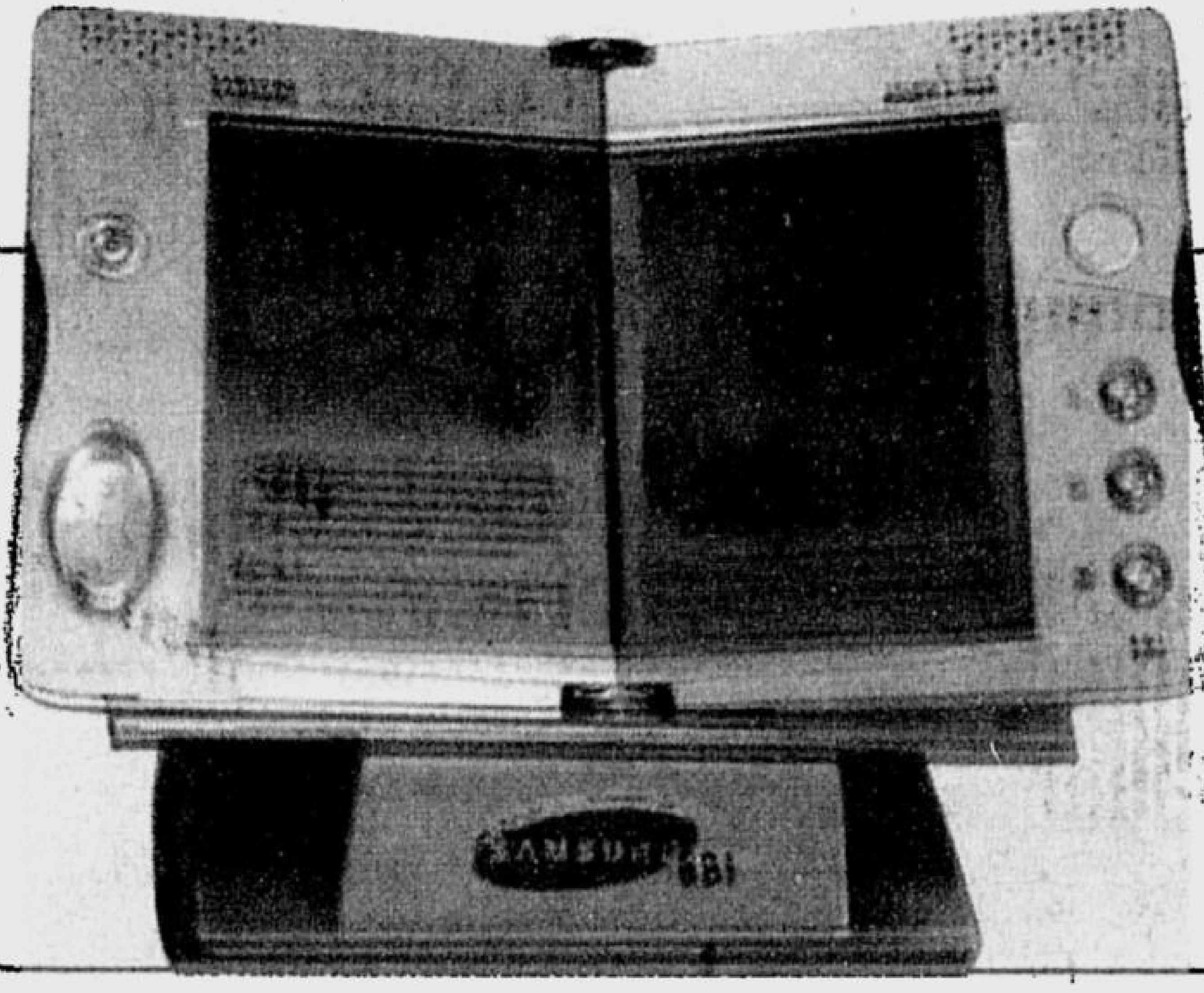
Top Mummy

SWATHED in cloth and cotton seeds, a mummy of an Inca man unearthed in Peru retains the headdress feathers that marked him as an individual of high Inca rank. Excavation team member Antonio Gamonal helps remove a mantle that covered the mummy's face. ***National Geographic Society via Reuters***



Smelly Flower

THE pungent smelling *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as the Titanarum, the world's largest flower, is tended to by Science and Collections coordinator Kath King at Kew Gardens, London. The flower is a native of the rainforests of Sumatra and only a few specimens have been cultivated. ***Reuters***



Great for Reading?

WANT to read that online book you just downloaded? With Samsung's new foldable computer screen, it'll be easy. Samsung says it s new computer screen is ideal for Internet users reading online books. The flat LCD screen folds like a book and is much clearer than existing ones. ***Reuters***

Awesome Authors (from page 1)

Bokod's Storyweaver

Gieson B. Madiano is an 11-year-old native Ibaloi boy from Bokod Central Elementarty School in Bokod, Benguet. And he never dreamed his school would one day declare a holiday just for him.

But that's what happened when his story "Tinig" won the RCBC contest.

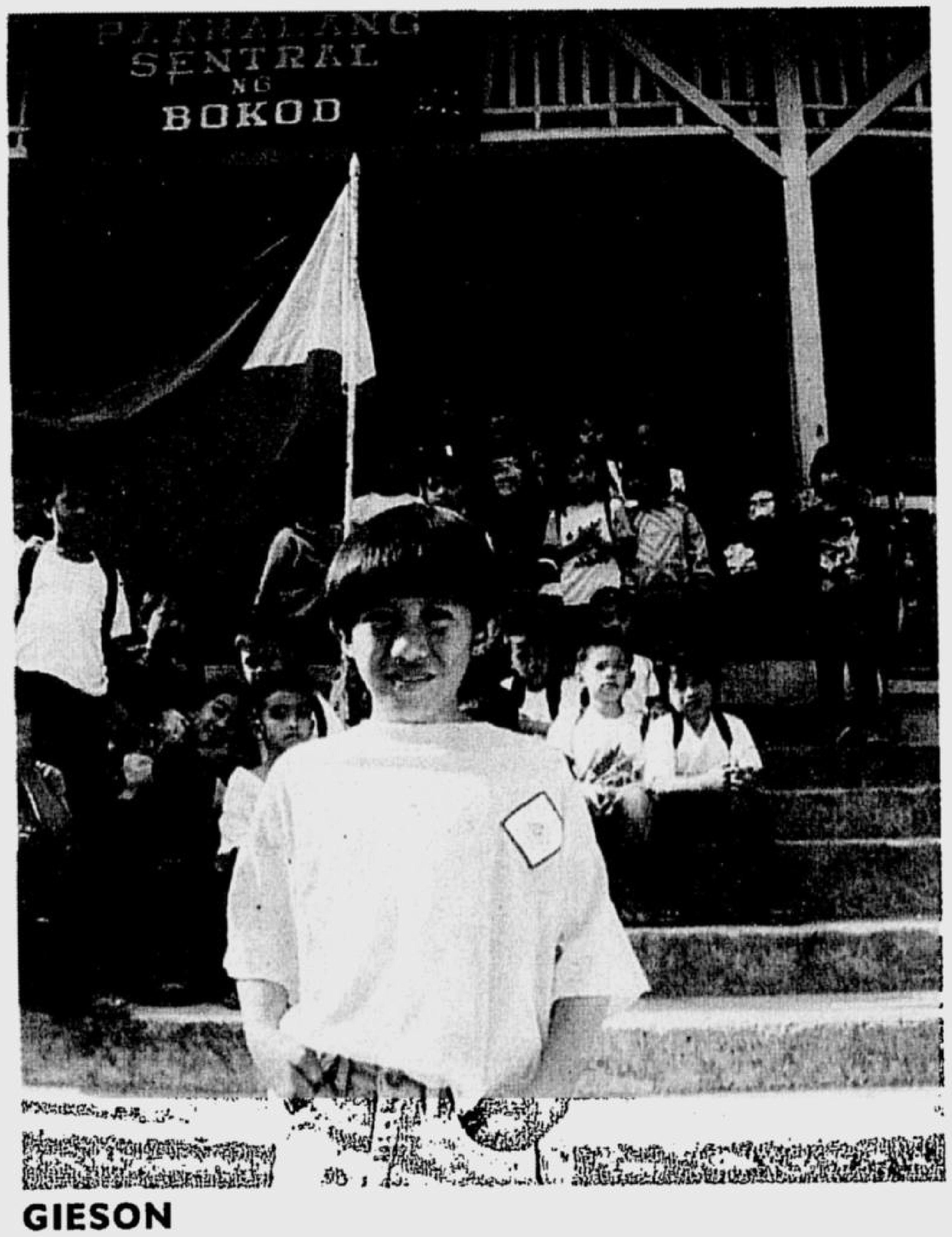
His tale, told in Filipino, is about firewood gatherers who abused nature. They were eventually "haunted" by strange beings in the forest. These turned out to be a tree branch, a bird, the river and an ash tray.

Gieson has always loved stories. His mother used to bring him books left by the Americans in Clark Field, Pampanga. Books surely traveled a long way to get to Gieson. But no matter. It's Gieson who's come a long way and will go far as one of Bokod's finest young minds.

Shining Through in Lahar Land

Jane Maureen Amata is only 7 years old. But she's a second grader who dreams big stories of hope for her province, Zambales.

Her winning story, titled "Maningning," is about a river called Maninging that refused to flow into a village. People had been cutting the trees the river watered with care and Maningning was very upset about this.


PAARALANG
SENTRAL
NG
BOKOD

GIESON

Jane's teachers and classmates at the Botolan South Central Elementary School are very proud of her accomplishment.

Her story is an important one to tell in her province. Planting more trees will surely make things better for a land that suffers from deforestation and was damaged by lahar.

Awesome/ p.6

JANE

CASIO • JUNIOR INQUIRER
Search for
'Rrific Kids
3 Best Featured Kids For 2002
Weekly T-shirt
Plus!
A P300 Discount Voucher
CASIO JUNIOR INQUIRER P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER
3 CASIO Keylighting keyboard
Chosen 'Rrific Kid of the year

CoNquer
Mount TALAMITAM
SNACK SUMMER CAMP

WAHOO! Thirty-five kids complete the trek up Mt. Talamitam in Batangas for SNACK 2002.

FIVE DAYS at a Kid Camp

IT was a summer of action, creativity, team challenges, learning to be on one's own and most importantly, making new friends. That's the story of the 35 kids who joined the SNACK 2002 (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) at the Taal Lake Yacht Club.

Of the kids who joined this year, three were second-timers. There was Jammy Cabochan from Ateneo Grade School who brought with him his ten classmates; Paola Bascon from O.B. Montessori Greenhills; and Amanda Navasero, daughter of Inquirer photo-journalist Mandy Navasero.

There were kids from Assumption, Xavier and La Salle. There were also kids from far-flung provinces as Batangas, Tuguegarao and Butuan.

The SNACK 2002 kids breezed through the physically and mentally challenging activities with enthusiasm and fervor-the "Conquer Mt. Talamitam" trek under the guidance of mountaineer Banny Hermanos; the camp cook-

FIVE/p. 6

LIKE THIS. Stage actress Lara Fabregas explains the elements of basic acting to Hannah Schifferer, 9 (left) and Pat Saputil, 11 (right).

YOUR HIGH-NESS! Pat Saputil (left) and Pauline Palacio do the cable walk.

Workshops

ART FESTIVAL. Get your hands dirty with oil pastels, oil paint, acrylic, watercolor and charcoal. Also, experiment with other creative forms like sculpture and indigenous art. For more info please call VISCOMM at 740-7221.

FABER-CASTELL ART WORKSHOP. Try out Faber-Castell watercolors, pencils, and crayons in their Summer Art Workshop this May. Workshop is on May 28-29, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m at the SM Fairview Activity Center. The workshop is open to kids ages 8 to 11 years old. Call up 361-7931 to 32 to register.

Contests

ANIME ART CONTEST. The AXN channel challenges budding artists and anime fans across Asia to join its AXN Anime Hero Drawing Contest. The contest is open to all ages in any of the two categories: 16 years od and below, and 17 years old and above. Participants must **create an original anime character** in an action pose, with a mode of transportation and a weapon. Participants may submit more than one entry and use any medium. Each entry must be on one A4 size paper. All entries must be in by June 7, 2002. The criteria for judging will be based on creativity and originality, execution and visual appeal, harmony of elements and overall impact of drawing. You may send your entries either by post (log on to www.axn-asia.com for addresses) or by email: axn_asia@spe.sony.com. See your anime character come alive as top entries will be displayed at AXN's Anime Festival Events in Singapore, Philippines and Hong Kong this July.

SAVE DEXTER'S BRAIN! Cartoon Network's boy genius Dexter has lost his memory! And Cartoon Network is counting on all kids to help save Dexter's brain. Kids who can **think of three quirky facts about Dexter** that might help him get back his memory, write them down fast! Send entries to PO BOX 1807, Makati Central Post Office, 1258 Makati City; or email savedexter@turner.com. All entries should be marked "Save Dexter's Brain" and include personal details such as name, address, telephone number and name of cable operator. Entries must be in by June 17, 2002.

Places

***TATAY*, TAKE ME TO TAGAYTAY!** Well, if you're rather tired of the mall scene, maybe it's time for a trip to Tagaytay with Mom, Dad and, okay, *ate* or *kuya* can come along too. The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Hotel has a special promo. Dig this: a **30% to 50% discount** for an overnight stay. You even get a Filipino Breakfast and free use of recreational facilities such as billiard tables, darts, table tennis courts, basketball courts, and tennis courts. DAP is just across the Tagaytay's Picnic Grove, the newly opened Nature's Park, and the Mama Mary Shrine.

Out There/p. 6

Aloha KITTY
© 1976, 1999, 2002 SANRIO CO., LTD.
Hello Kitty summer collection in tropical designs
Puzzles
Stationery Collection
Assorted Fun Pillows
Character Shirts
Beach Sandals
Coin Banks
Kiddie Fans
SM
At the Character Shop
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

FIVE DAYS...(from page 4)

ing using Purefoods ingredients and Coleman stoves and cooksets; taebo-aerobics with Jackielou Blanco; acting under Lara Fabregas; taekwondo by Monsour del Rosario; and sailing and kayaking by Olympian Nestor Soriano with Commodore Peter Capotosto. There was also a photography contest sponsored by Konica; an archery session with the Archery Association of the Philippines; tie-dyeing and drawing by artist Arri Herrera; a pottery lesson by Lanelle Abueva and the LUBID teambuilding adventure games.

Different awards were given to outstanding campers. Filipino-German Hannah Schifferer, 9, was adjudged Best Camper and Best Mountaineer; Alex Laperal was Best in LUBID games; Jnes Sibal was Best in Pottery; Ryan Garcia was Best in Drawing; Patrick Ang was Best in Tie-Dying; Ian Saputil was Best in Archery and Acting; Api Laperal was Best in Taebo-aerobics; Kat Kat Palo was Best in Taekwondo; and Gabby Hernandez and Jammy Cabochan were Best in Sailing.

SNACK, a brainchild of journalist-artists' manager Bibsy Carballo, is now on its fourth year. For inquiries, please call 721-0801, 724-1762, 726-7164.

Out there...(from page 5)

Events

MUSEO KIDDIE FEST. Do you like dancing or singing? Are you artistic or sports-minded? You'll feel right at home with Museo Pambata this summer. Check out what's happening in your fave kiddie museum:

- Ang Bayanihan sa Museo, a dance performance of the National Folk Dance Company with a **learn-to-dance session**, today at 10 a.m.
- UP Concert Chorus in Museo, May 23, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
- Museolympics, an inter-barangay **sports festival** involving traditional Filipino games, May 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bookworms may also want to check out Museo's **storytelling sessions**: the PBBY Storytelling Hour every Friday and the Museo Pambata Storytelling Hour every Saturday. For inquiries, please call 523-1797/98 or email pr-prog@museopambata.org.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING. Time to shop for school supplies! Check out Office 1 Superstore's "Cool Back-to-School Sale" and enjoy a **5% discount** on all school supplies and over 60% discount on selected items. Office 1 has branches in Kamagong Avenue in Makati City (tel. 890-5243), Meralco Avenue in Pasig City (tel. 634-2388), and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City (tel. 371-0256). The sale will run until June 30, 2002.

Exhibit

CHILD AT HEART. See the works of five young artists from the University of the Philippines at Ayala Museum. **"Toys"** is an exhibit which focuses on "the idea of toys as being a central part of each person's childhood experience." It runs until May 31. Call Marives Pedraja at 812-1191 to 95 local 103.

STRANGE OLD STUFF. Visit the "Treasures at Ayala Museum" exhibit. It features some of the museum's **finest historical pieces** from its archaeological, ethnographic, and fine arts collections. Among the exhibited pieces are ivory sculptures, paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, and Fernando Zobel. There are also examples of stone tools, artifacts from the Cordilleras and Mindanao, and jewelry from the Spanish colonial period. The exhibit will run until July 31, 2002, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, ring up Marives Pedraja at 812-1191 local 103.

Cable Picks

MUMMY WEEK. It's all about mummies and skeletons this May on National Geographic Channel. Join scientists and professors as **they unravel the mystery behind the preserved corpses and ancient bones** found in different parts of the world. Catch the chill on the following dates: "The Mummy Road Show", May 21-24 at 9:00 p.m.; "Ice Mummies", Tuesday, May 21; "Child Mummy", Wednesday, May 22; "Unknown Soldier", Thursday, May 23; "Aztec Death", and Friday, May 24 at 9:30 p.m.

WORKING DOGS. Meet dogs who paint, act, even do forensic work, in "Dogs with Jobs". Watch them on Wednesday, May 29 at 8:00 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

Awesome (from page 3)

A Princess Who Writes

Princess Morillo looked at her brother one day and knew she had a story to tell. Her brother often ignored their mom's instructions to throw their garbage. So Princess modeled her main character after him.

Her story, "Bago Mahuli ang Lahat" tells of a boy who has a bad dream where he gets sucked inside a computer. And it the computer was garbage, waiting to eat him up.

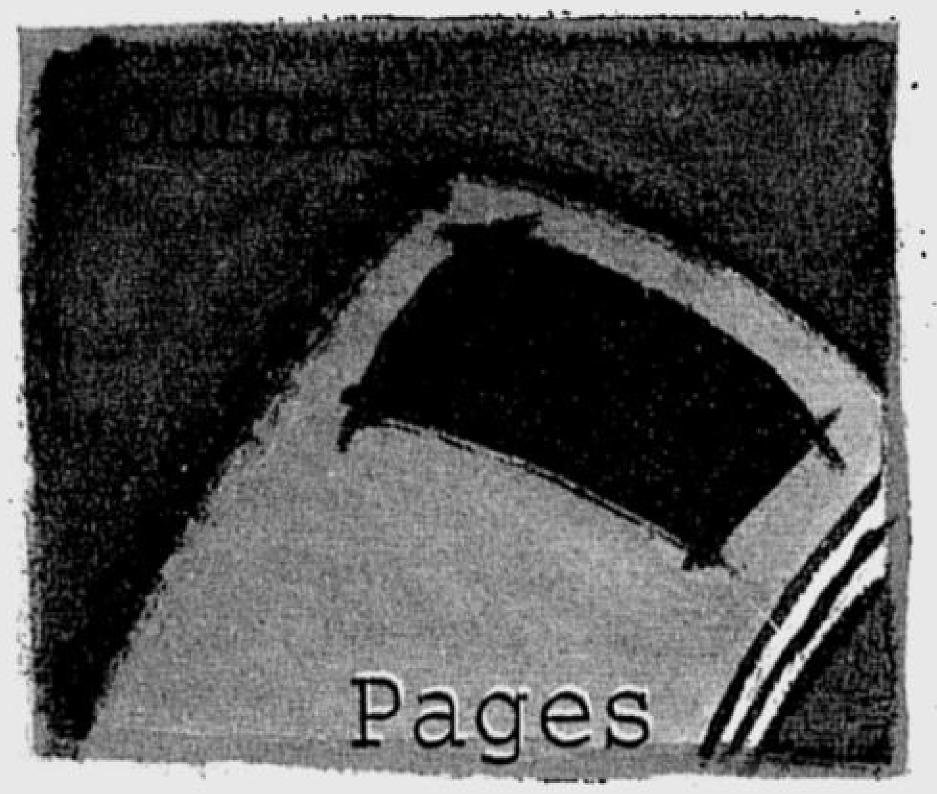
A scary tale, but an important one. Princess lives in Metro Manila—Caloocan City to be exact—where garbage already threatens the health of its residents.

PRINCESS

Princess studies in Baesa Elementary School. She has been an honor student since first grade and—like her co-winners—loves to read book after book.

All grand prize winners received P30,000 each while their teachers were given P5,000. Their schools received P20,000 each. Princess, Jane, Gieson and Dominic received scholarship packages from Pacific Plans and Grepalife worth P25,000. Quite a prize, huh?

What about you? Do you like writing stories, too?



II-Magalang's the Best

Paolo A. Florenciano
Pasay City West High School

II-MA NG
NO. ONE!

WHEN I was a high school freshman, I promised myself I would keep my grades high. That way, I'll be able to stay in the highest section, I-Marunong. Time passed by, I felt lonely in that section. Eventually, I broke my promise to myself and when I reached my sophomore year, I was transferred to the second best section, II-Magalang.

I found that we had a cool, kind and friendly adviser, Ms Irene Odosis. She teaches Social Studies. My classmates here are so friendly, caring, and cute.There are five guys we call the "Top 5 Guwapings." They are J.R. Gustilo, Aaron Gatchalian, Nestor Bacolod, Dandreb Vicente and Kervin De Sena. Kevin is the cutest and looks exactly like Draco Malfoy in the movie "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

In II-Magalang, almost everybody is my friend though I hang out with three special friends. They are Mardie, Joanne and Mae. They are always there for me whenever I need their help, especially when I am sad.

Our section only has one problem: we don't have our own classroom! Our room doubles as the audio-visual room. So, sometimes we have to study at the gym when other sections are using the AVR. Some sections even call us "nomads" because of this situation.

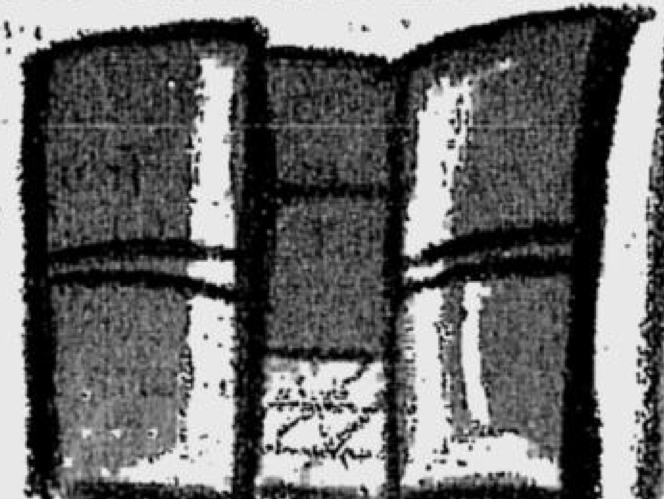
This is very hard for us, but sometimes it's fun and luckily, we have each other. We're all good friends and we have a kind adviser.

We may not be as intelligent as the Section I, we may not have our own classroom. But II-Magalang is still the best section for me.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **JI@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Family Greetings

HI there, JI! I always read your paper. I could say that you really made it for kids. Allow me to share with you my hobbies. I love surfing the net. It helps me do everything, like my research for school and my search for information about things that some people won't even bother with. I also like playing computer games such us Tomb Raiders. Please let me greet the Sindico family namely Anna, *Ate* Angel, *Ate* Lilith, *Ninang* Nits and Supt. Efrain Sindico. I also want to greet my sister, *Ate* Diwata, my brother, *Kuya* Dakila and my *nanay* and *tatay*. I also want to say hello to my friends in Saint Alphonsus in Bene, Batch 2001-2002!

May I ask for a favor? Please publish an article about "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and please feature a picture of Daniel (Radcliffe) a.k.a. Harry. Thanks and more power to you the best kids paper: JI!—**DIOSA ANGELICA QUIÑONES**, Muntinlupa City

Dear Angelica,

Thanks for your letter! We'll surely have an article about Harry Potter once book 5 comes out or if there's news about the next movie. In the meantime, I'm sure you'll find lots about Harry Potter on the Net.— ***The Editor***

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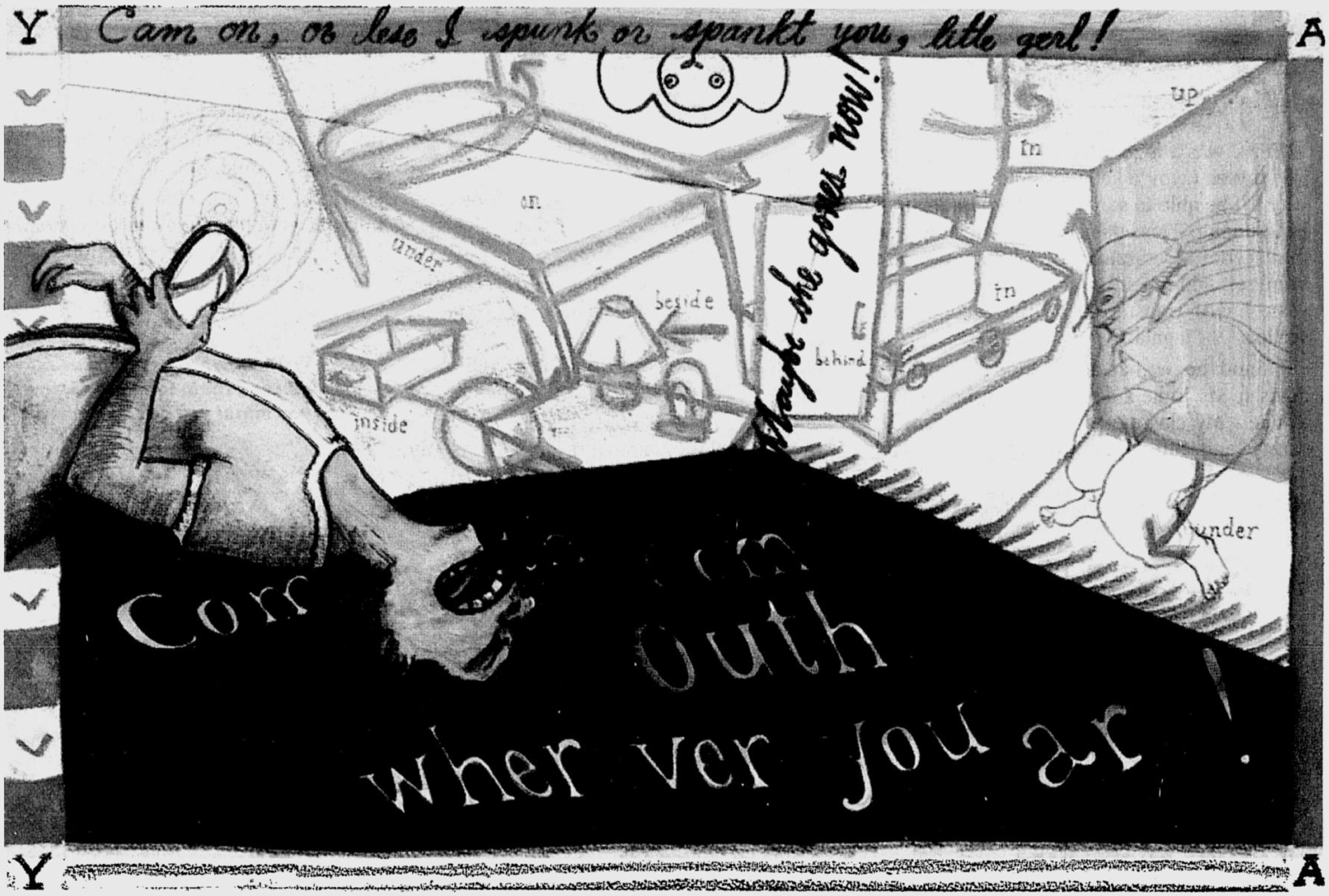
Popo and Her Awesom



Story by Paula Guinto, Art by Jason Moss

FOR or By KIDS

"P-O-P-O!!! Wheres are you hiding *litel gerl*? Yelled *Yaya* Shirley at the top of her lungs.

"*Diyos ko, dhay*! It's time for your *siyesta na*! *Cam outh, cam outh*, wherever you are!" she yelled some more.

"*Cam on, or else I spunk* or *spankt* you, *litle gerl*!" she threatened aloud reaching for her rubber Spartan slipper.

Before *Yaya* Shirley could get her slipper in her hand to position to strike the air, Popo, from behind a big potted plant in the living room, lunged forward and jumped out!

"*Bulaga*!" Popo shrieked, and while laughing hysterically, she ran as fast as she could to her room.

A very surprised and angry *Yaya* Shirley was left behind looking for a slipper that flew from her foot, to her hand, then up in the air, to somewhere under the glass table in the *lanai*.

"Gggrrr!" *Yaya* Shirley muttered under her breath.

A breathless and laughed-out Popo was at last, in her most favorite place—her massive bathroom.

She was far away from her *Yaya* Shirley. She actually liked her most of the time. Except when she forced Popo to sleep in the afternoon! The whole afternoon-naptime thing really didn't make sense to her at all.

She remembers asking her questions. . . .

"Why do I have to sleep *siesta*, when I could be playing with all

e Afternoon-nap Escape

my friends!?!?" she asked her mom and dad, one day during lunch.

"Because," they said in unison.

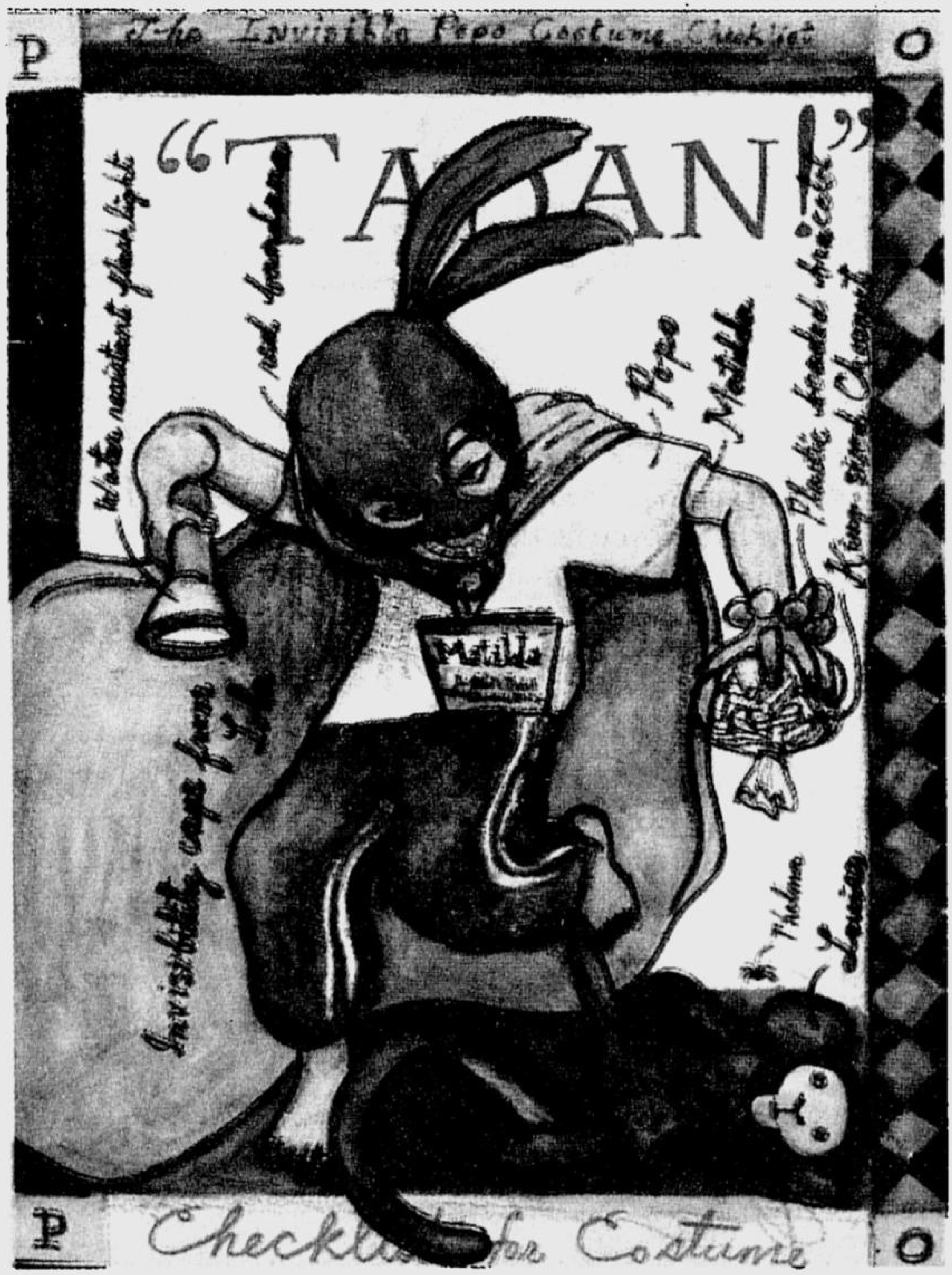
"Bee-chuz, whaaat?" Popo insisted.

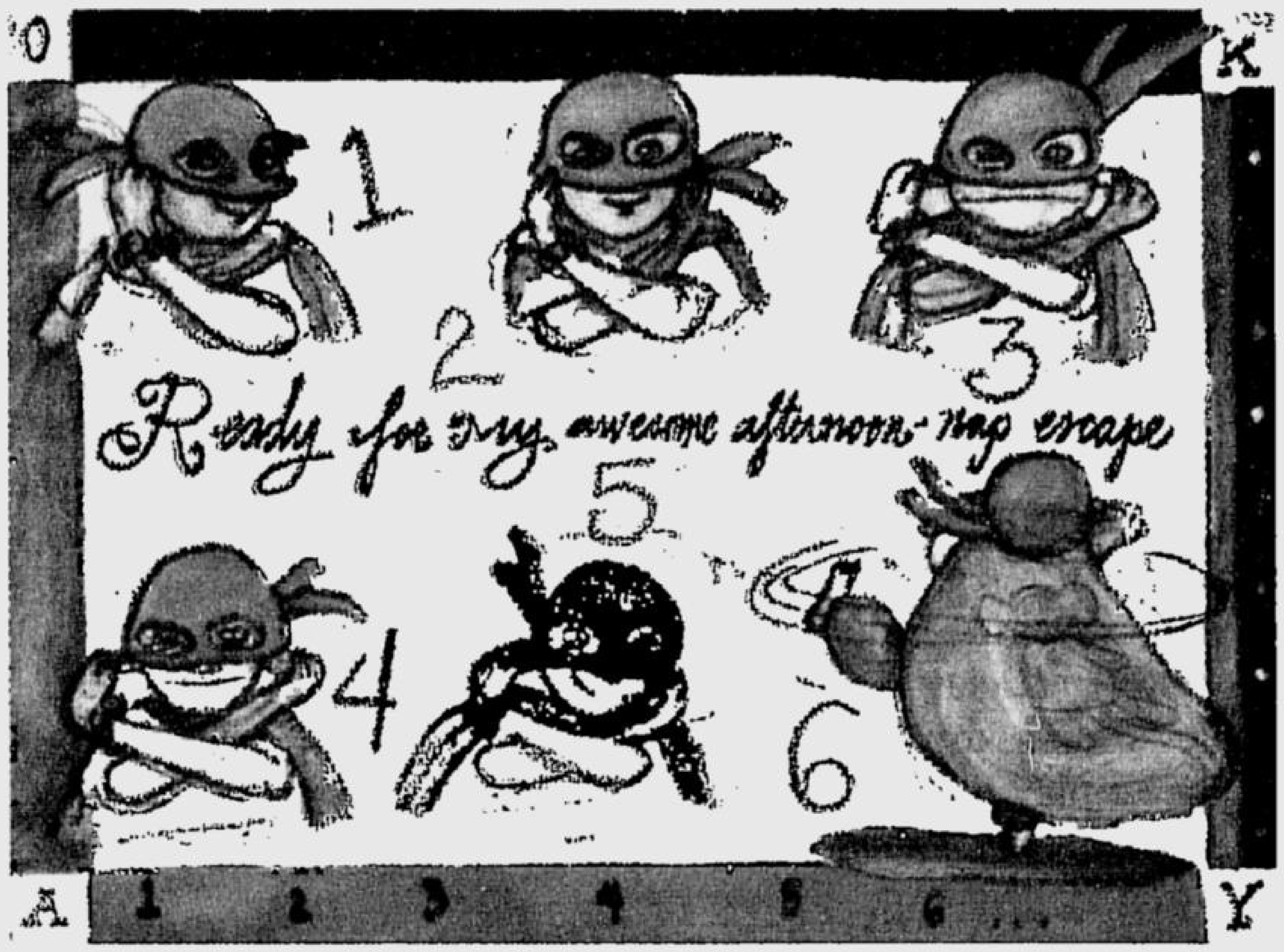
"Honey, please pass the *patis*," mom said to dad then turned to Popo, "Shush, Pilar and eat your vegetables. Your food is getting cold."

Disappointed, Popo ate her lunch in silence. Mom only called her Pilar when she was impatient about something.

AND ALL she really wanted was to understand why. So now, with her super blanket with super powers (a.k.a. invisibility cape from *Lola*), she sat on the tiled floor of her bathroom and looked at the things she brought with her.

a) Mask (red bandana with eye holes) for extra camouflage—check!


P
O
The Invisible Popo Costume Checklist
"TADAN!"
Water resistant flashlight
red bandana
Popo
Matilda
Plastic beaded bracelet
King sized Chocnut
Matilda
Invisibility cape from Lola
Thelma
Louise
P
O
Checklist for Costume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K
1
2
3
Ready for my awesome afternoon-nap escape
5
4
6
A
1 2 3 4 5 6 ...
Y

b) Favorited stuffed purple monkey (a.k.a. Louise)—check!

c) Half-eaten bag of king-sized Chocnut (part of a nutritious *merienda*)—check!

d) Water resistant flashlight (dad's Christmas gift last year)—check!

e) Plastic beaded bracelet (lucky charm from her best friend, Banana)—check!

f) Favorite book—"Matilda"—check!

"OKAY, all set," Popo thought, "I have everything I need. Yaya Shirley will come in any minute and once I activate my SUPER invisibility cape like so. Left hand on right ear, right hand on left ear, tug them at the same time. Blink once, then twice while wiggling my nose spin once in place. Then TADAN! I am the invisible Popo. Ready for my awesome afternoon-nap escape! Free from *Yaya* Shirley's evil clutches," "Bwuhahhahaha!" invisible Popo guffawed ever-so-quietly in her secret sacred hiding place.

After locating her rubber slipper in the *lanai*, *Yaya* Shirley stomped her way to Popo's room.

"Po-po? Are you in bed *alreydi*, Popo?" *Yaya* Shirley asked rhetorically. "Sleepy time, now, *nawty gerl*!"

Once in the room, *Yaya* Shirley looked for Popo everywhere, calling out her name.

"Po-po! *Where's* are you?"

Yaya Shirley looked on the bed then under.

She looked behind the desk. Then behind the door. In the closets. In the trunk at the foot of her bed. Up the ceiling. Under the carpet.

Popo/p. 13

When the opponent is good, Kyle Dandan adapts and changes strategy. That's why he's a…

Tennis Champ

By Margaux Ortiz

THIRTEEN-year-old Kyle Joshua Dandan first wanted to be a basketball player. He liked shooting hoops and dreamed of being a basketball star when he grows up. But when his dad Nick, a tennis player, took Kyle to his matches, the boy was immediately hooked.

Kids 'r' rrific.

"I was five years old when I started tagging along with my dad," shares Kyle, an incoming seventh-grader at Colegio de San Agustin in Makati. "Actually it was the country's then top seed Bobby Angelo who inspired me to play tennis. I wanted to be just like him."

Today, Kyle hasn't fully let go of his original dream. He is in fact, a member of his school's basketball varsity team. But he now has his eyes set on a new goal: to become a professional tennis player someday.

Rising Star

Kyle was 8 when he started participating in tennis tournaments. He says the pressure of those early competitions wasn't easy to handle at first. But when Kyle got the hang of it, he began winning more and more games and raking in medals and trophies.

Five years later, Kyle's hard work and perseverance paid off. He is now a member of the Philippine Junior Tennis Team and the only 13-year-old to play under the 16 and under category, an achievement for someone as young as he is.

"Being part of the Philippine team is really cool," says Kyle. "I get to go to different places like Baguio, Cebu, Naga, Subic and even Indonesia to play tennis!"

He says he learns a lot of things from these out-of-town trips, like adapting the techniques of his opponents. "This is very important to help me improve my performance the next time I play against them," shares Kyle.

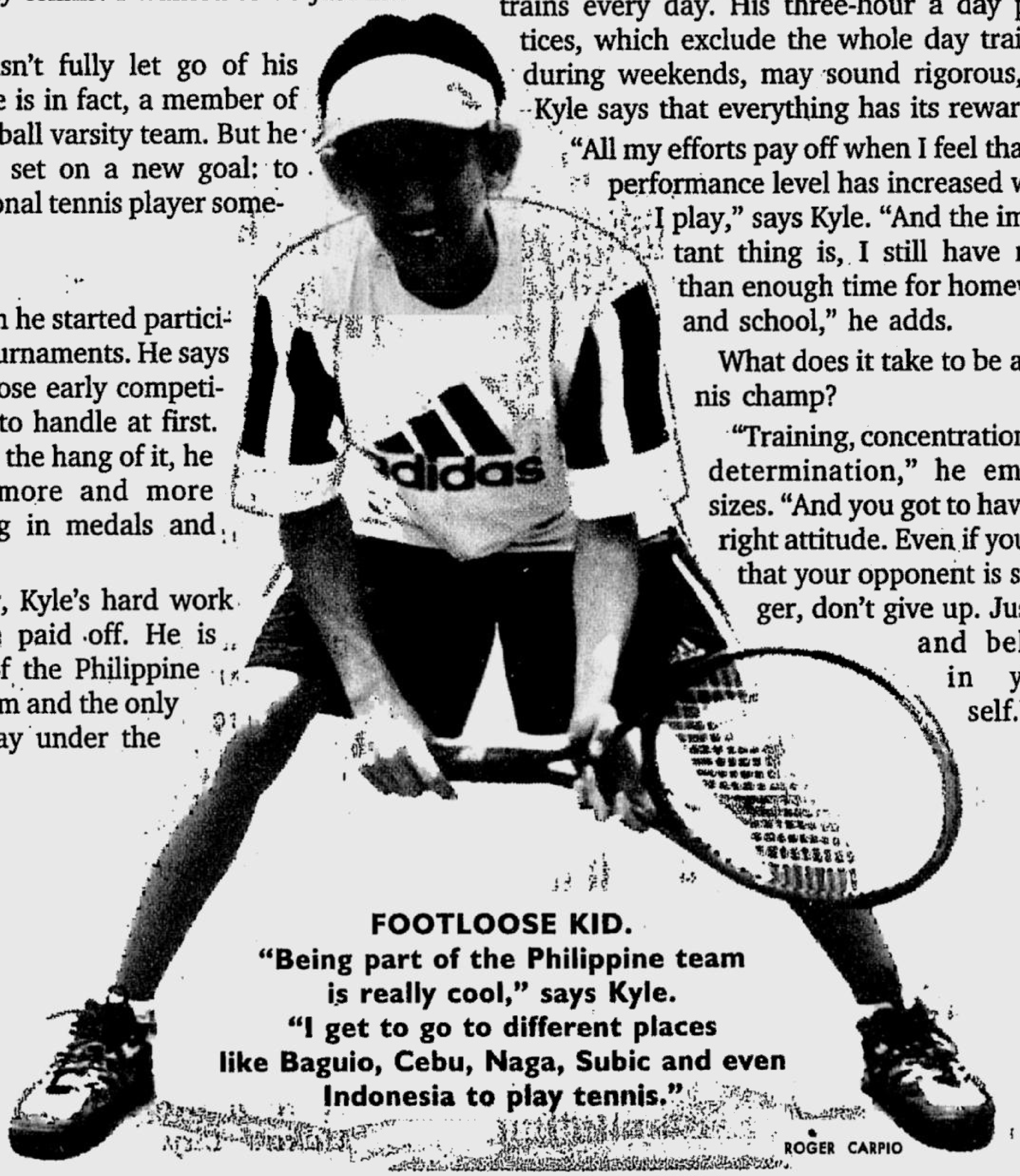
Practice! Practice!

In order to keep his game, Kyle practices and trains every day. His three-hour a day practices, which exclude the whole day training during weekends, may sound rigorous, but Kyle says that everything has its rewards.

"All my efforts pay off when I feel that my performance level has increased when I play," says Kyle. "And the important thing is, I still have more than enough time for homework and school," he adds.

What does it take to be a tennis champ?

"Training, concentration and determination," he emphasizes. "And you got to have the right attitude. Even if you feel that your opponent is stronger, don't give up. Just try and believe in yourself."



FOOTLOOSE KID.
"Being part of the Philippine team is really cool," says Kyle. "I get to go to different places like Baguio, Cebu, Naga, Subic and even Indonesia to play tennis."

ROGER CARPIO

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific

I nominate: ______________________________

Age: ______________________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____

She/he lives at ______________________________

and studies at ______________________________

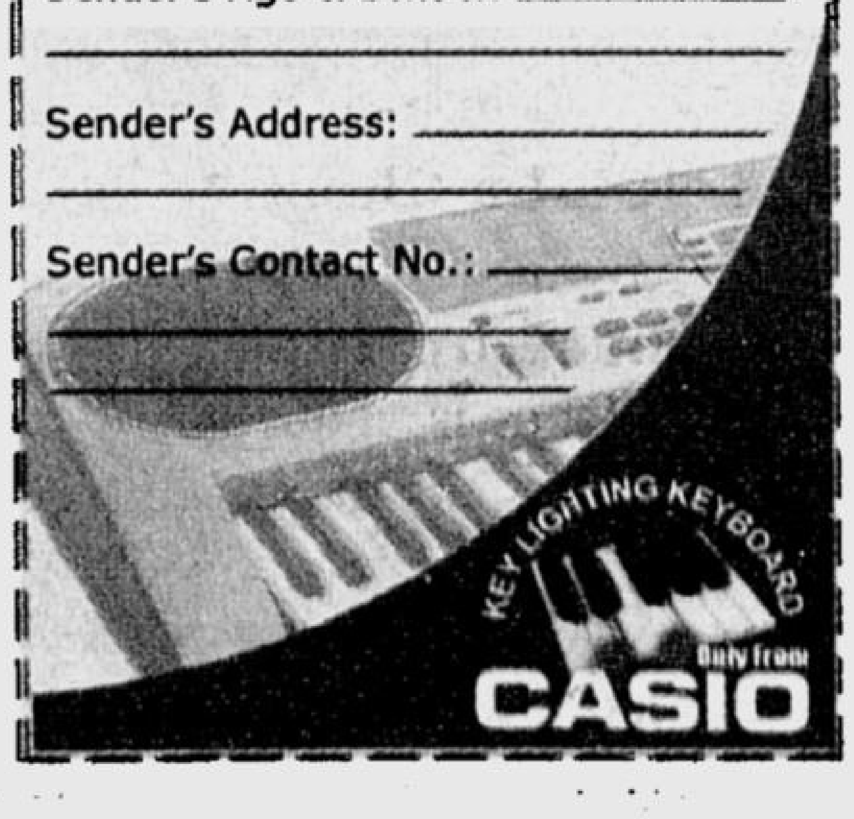
Her/his contact number is: ______________________________

Sender's Name: ______________________________

Sender's Age & School: ______________________________

Sender's Address: ______________________________

Sender's Contact No.: ______________________________



Beyond Harry Potter

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

THE fifth book of Harry Potter isn't out yet and no one knows when it will come out. So what do we do until then? Do we **(a)** read all four books over and over again **(b)** stop reading or **(c)** find other books to read that have the same themes and elements as Harry Potter?

Here are some of the books I would recommend:

1. There are 4 books in the **Young Wizard Series** by Diane Duane. Like Harry Potter, Kit and Nina are no two ordinary teenagers but wizards in training. Unlike Harry Potter, they live in our everyday world but like Harry Potter are called to do extraordinary deeds. Their wit, intelligence and courage plus a growing knowledge of magic help them overcome the obstacles they face that include helping whale wizards.

2. A favorite author of teenagers is Tamora Pierce. Her **Circle of Magic Quartet** which follow the adventures of four teenagers—Sandry, Tris, Daja and Brian is filled with fantasy and, of course, magic.

Her First Test, Page and Squire series are also very popular with girl readers who especially like reading about the days of knights and chivalry.

Eva Ibbotson has written a number of books that deal with magic and fantasy. **"The Secret of Platform 13"** is a magical romp through different worlds in search of a wizard.

"Which Witch?" is another search of sorts but for the right bride for the the mighty wizard Haruman. Soon to come are **"Island of the Aunts"** and **"Dial-a-Ghost."**

4. Volume 1 of the **"Chronicles of Chrestomanci"** by Diana Wynne Jones is about the Chants, a family strong in magic. But neither Christopher Chant or Cat Chant can work even the simplest spell. Who could have dreamed that both Christopher and Cat were born with nine lives — or that they could lose them so quickly? In Volume 2 there are two worlds where the practice of magic has gone dangerously awry. There is only one solution — call upon the Chrestomanci.

So You Want to Be a
WIZARD
ne Duane

A Series of Unfortunate Events
Book the Fourth
by LEMONY SNICKET
THE MISERABLE MILL

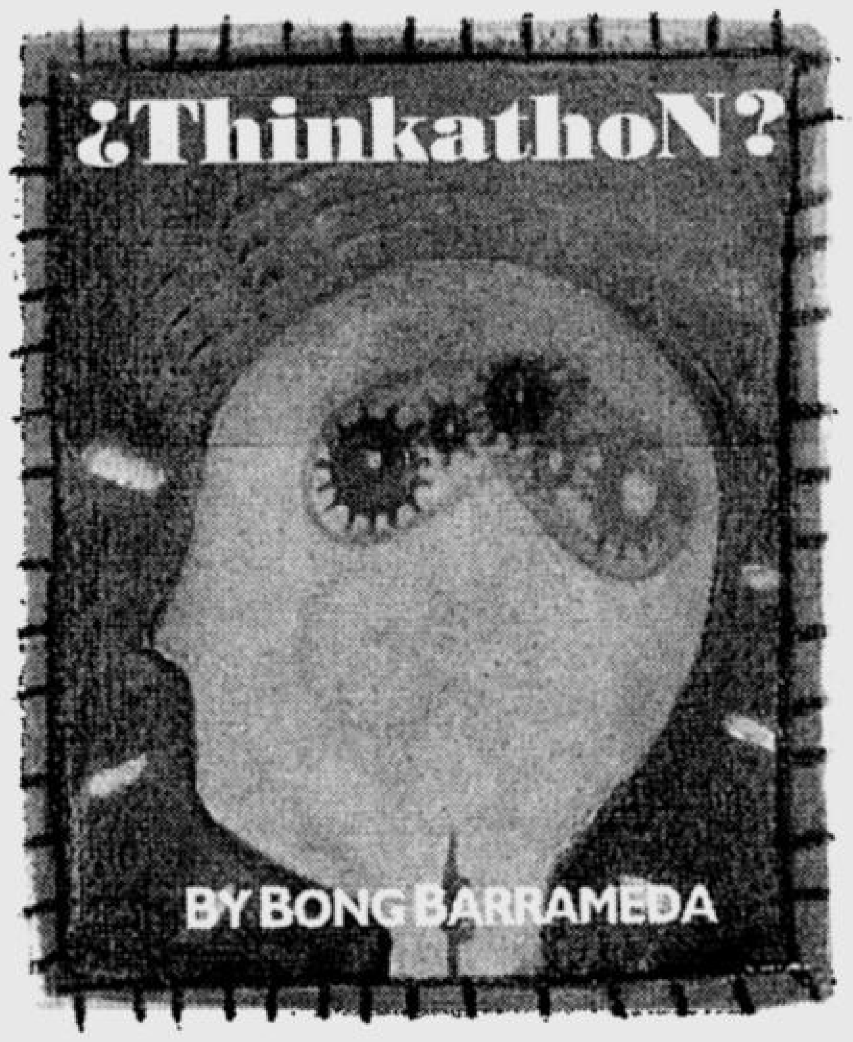
"A zestful adventure, perfect for fans of HARRY POTTER."
—School Library Journal
Which Witch?
EVA IBBOTSON
Author of The Secret of Platform 13

5. The **Dalemark Quartet** of Diana Wynne Jones – **"Cart and Cwidder"**, **"Drowned Ammet"**, **"The Spellcoats"** and **"The Crown of Dalemark"** — is a fantasy set in the kingdom of Dalemark. For centuries, it has been a land divided by warring kingdoms of the North and South. Only with the help of the Undying, the mysterious gods of Dalemark and four extraordinary young people from the past, present and future will Dalemark be saved.

6. Follow the misadventures of the Baudelaire orphans as they try to escape the evil machinations of their guardian Count Olaf in Lemony Snicket's **"A Series of Unfortunate Events."**

So rub your hands together and get ready to travel to worlds yet unknown with the help of your imagination! (And some book magic.)

All books are available at Young Minds which is located at the 2nd Level of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.


¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

See the Smiley?

For many email junkies, sending a message isn't complete without a smiley or emoticon. It's that symbolic picture (constructed by arranging standard keyboard characters that are usually to be viewed sideways) used to show your feelings about a person or subject, or just add a touch of fun. Do you know what each of these smileys is doing, saying or representing?

1. :-)
2. ;-)
3. :-(
4. :'-(
5. :-P
6. :-D
7. :-O
8. :-\
9. :-&
10. :-()
11. d:-)
12. 8-)
13. [:-)
14. :-#
15. :-*
16. {*}
17. 0:-)
18. }:->
19. =^..^=
20. @—>—

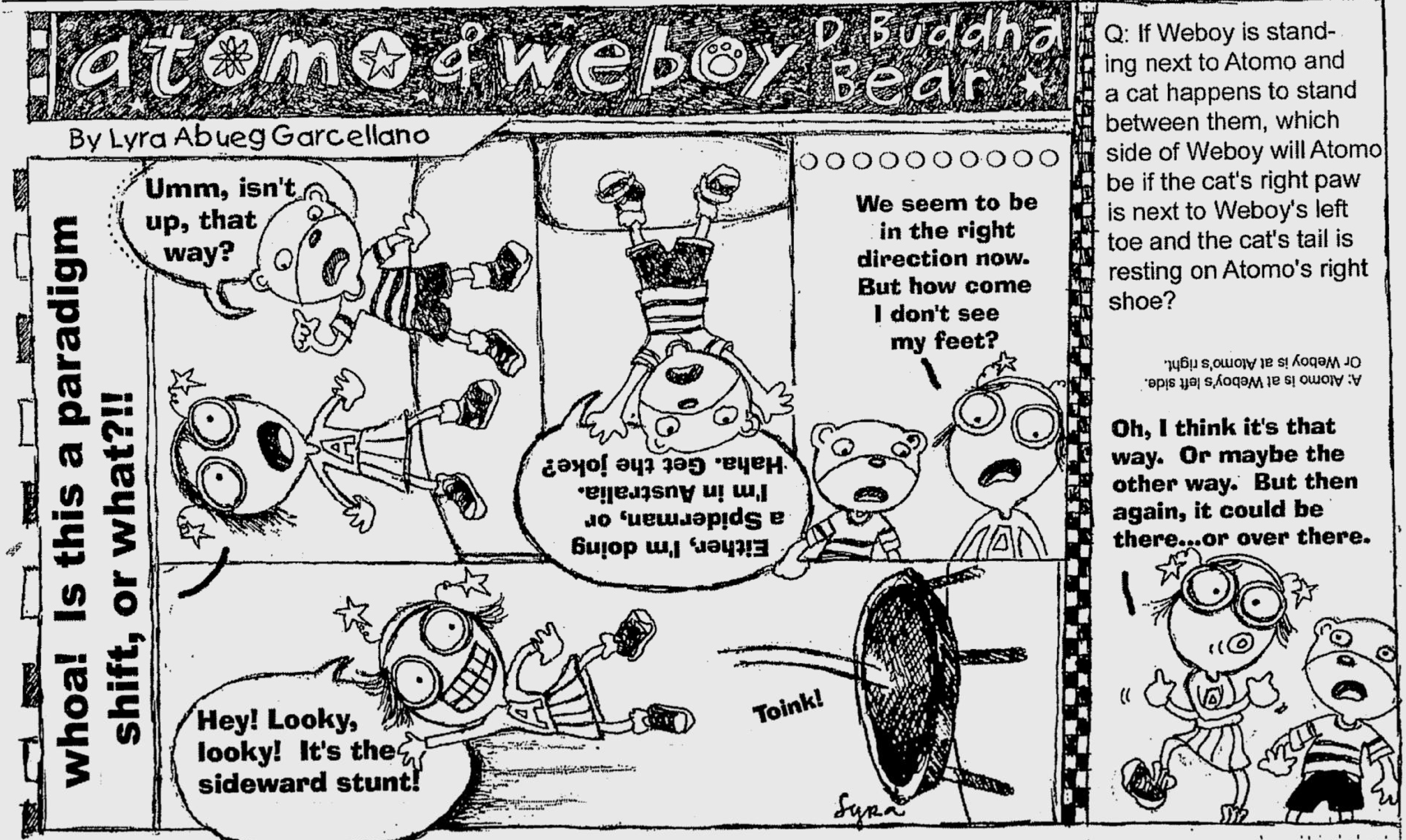
Answers :

1. smiling
2. winking
3. frowning
4. crying
5. tongue sticking out (beh/belat)
6. laughing (ha ha)
7. oh no! (ha?)
8. doubtful
9. tongue-tied
10. can't stop talking
11. wearing a cap
12. wearing glasses
13. wearingheadphones
14. wearing braces
15. kiss
16. hug and kiss
17. angel
18. devil
19. cat
20. rose

Ratings :

superbrain!
excellent!
good!

superbrain!	excellent!	good!
11-2	8 - 10	5 - 9


atomo & weboy D Buddha Bear
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano
Umm, isn't up, that way?
Either, I'm doing a Spiderman, or I'm in Australia. Haha. Get the joke?
We seem to be in the right direction now. But how come I don't see my feet?
whoa! Is this a paradigm shift, or what?!!
Hey! Looky, looky! It's the sideward stunt!
Toink!
Lyra
Oh, I think it's that way. Or maybe the other way. But then again, it could be there...or over there.

Q: If Weboy is standing next to Atomo and a cat happens to stand between them, which side of Weboy will Atomo be if the cat's right paw is next to Weboy's left toe and the cat's tail is resting on Atomo's right shoe?

A: Atomo is at Weboy's left side. Or Weboy is at Atomo's right.

Popo. . .

(from page 9)

Beside the lamp. Inside the drawers.

She looked everywhere in Popo's room. And still, she didn't find her.

"OH ME! Oh *may*. Popo is *nowheres* to be found," *Yaya* Shirley exclaimed aloud.

"Maybe she *gones* now!" "Oh well, will try again *layter*," and *Yaya* Shirley tiptoed away and left the room, gently closing the bedroom door behind her.

"It worked!" Popo yelled, "My invisibility cape worked!"

After three seconds of silence—one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three -- and when Popo was sure she was gone, she dropped her invisibility cape from her shoulders and jumped up and down.

"It worked! It worked!" Popo yelled. "My invisibility cape worked! Now, I'm free. Free to play all I want! Yippee, no more silly afternoon nap for me."

So, Popo danced the dance of joy, played with her stuffed monkey, Louise ate all her leftover king-sized Chocnut, and read two-and-a-half pages of her favorite book.

Then on her super invisibility cape, on the tiled floor of her favorite, most sacred place, she fell fast asleep.

When *Yaya* Shirley found her, she was snoring quietly, like cat.

"Now that's a sleepy *gerl*! You *thenk* me *samday*. When you are *alreydi* grown up, tall and strong. Ssshhhhh! Time for beddy time!"

Paula Guinto *is a freelance writer. She's taking her Masters in Comparative Literature at University of the Philippines in Quezon City.*

Jason Moss *is a full time illustrator and painter. Watch out for his upcoming book that he illustrated, "Ang Bagong Kaibigan ni Bing Butiki" written by Yna Reyes. You can email him at jasonmoss @hotmail.com*

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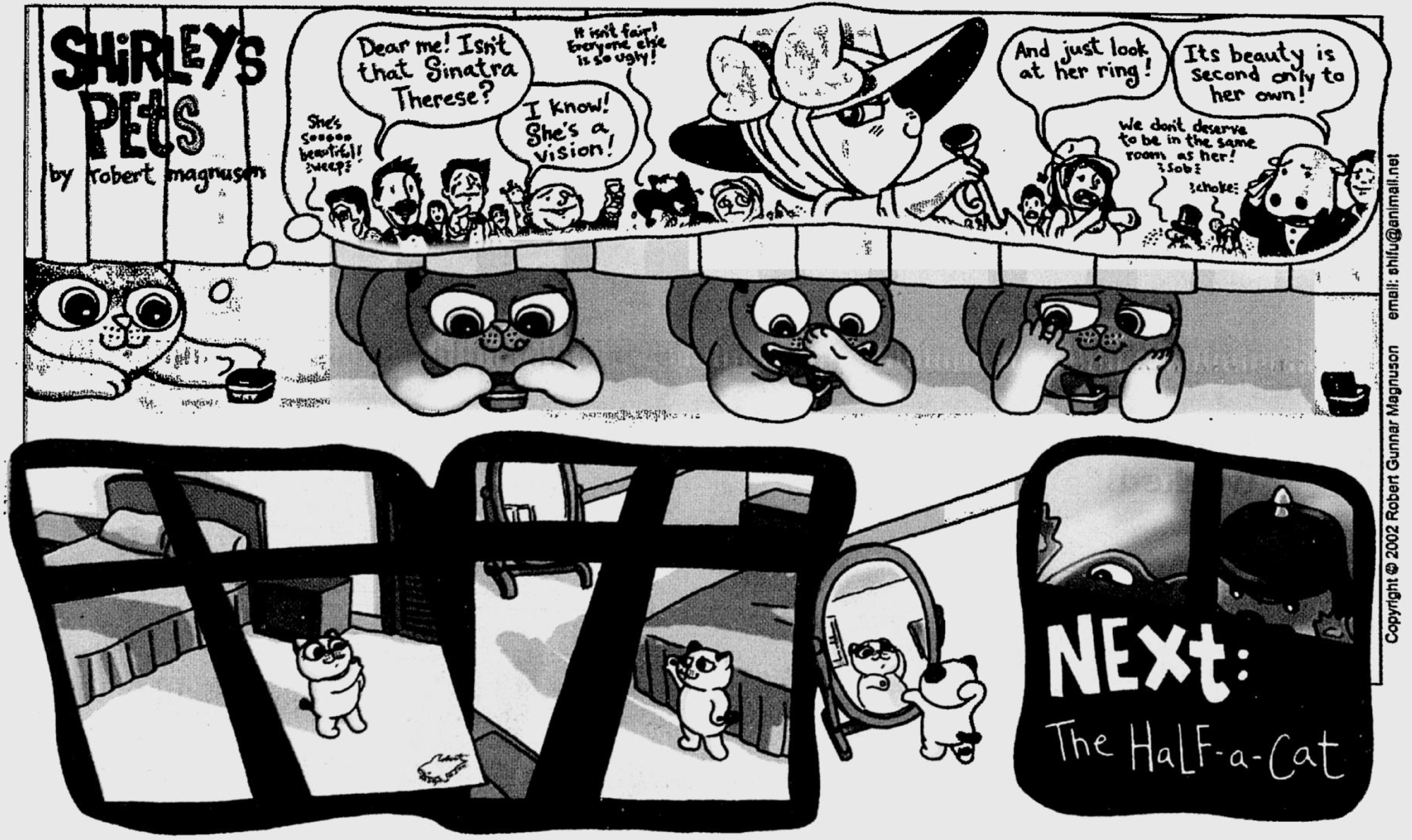
Little John has just been given his Junior Super-Hero Ring. He is told that the ring renders its bearer half-invisible whenever humans are near. Little John decides to hide his ring under the bed - unaware that his jewelry-loving sister has been eavesdropping...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnusen
She's soooooo beautiful! :weep:
Dear me! Isn't that Sinatra Therese?
I know! She's a vision!
It isn't fair! Everyone else is so ugly!
And just look at her ring!
Its beauty is second only to her own!
We don't deserve to be in the same room as her! :sob:
:choke:
NEXT: The HaLF-a-Cat

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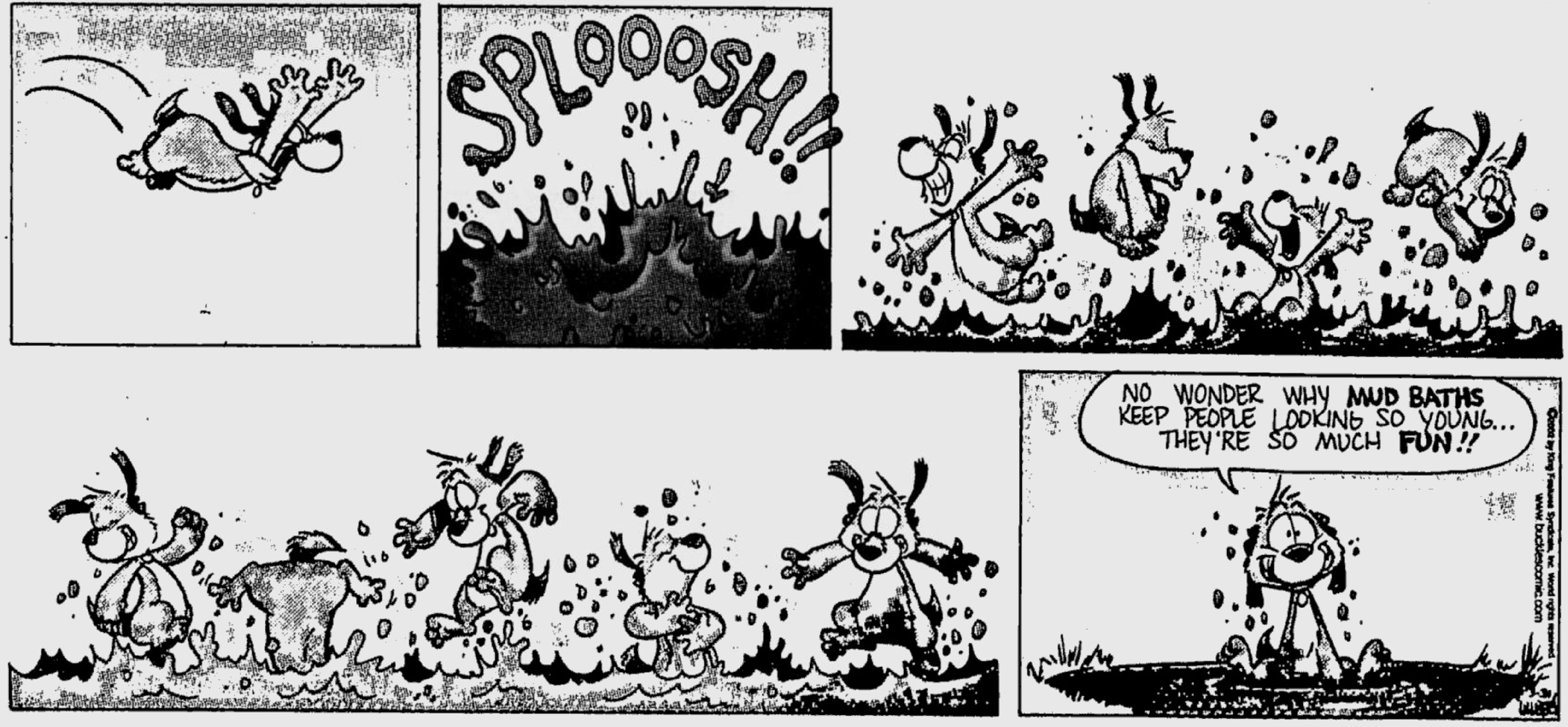
BUCKLES **BY DAVID GILBERT**


SPLOOOSH!!
NO WONDER WHY MUD BATHS KEEP PEOPLE LOOKING SO YOUNG... THEY'RE SO MUCH FUN!!

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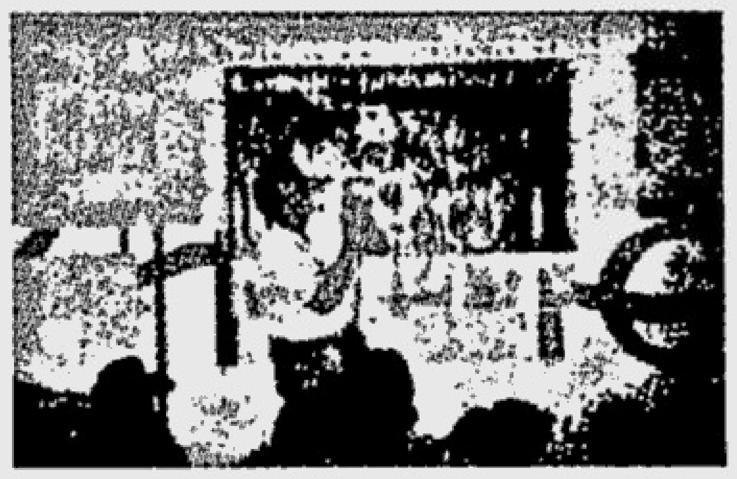
Perfect Shot!

Canon • JUNIORINQUIRER

Summer Photography Workshop for Kids

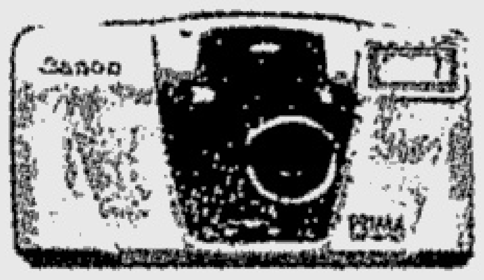
FUN,FUN, AND MORE FUN!There's not enough of that word to describe how happy the 65 children who attended last Saturday's Summer Photography Workshop made possible by Canon Camera and the Junior Inquirer. It was a huge and surprising show-up of participants as many of them came with their parents from as far as outside Metro Manila.

The workshop was the start of three Saturdays of photo lecture that will run until May 25. The first day covered familiarization with the parts of a camera, taking good care of it and, lastly, how to frame your subjects as you take the pictures.



Famous professional photographer Ibarra Deri conducted the workshop. He was so cool with the kid participants with the bonus magic tricks he did to enliven the activity. The fun didn't stop there, however, as bundles of gifts courtesy of the event sponsors were distributed. Sponsors included Kids at Work, Lactum, Kameraworld, Nestle Chocolait and Henlin among others. Display booths of a few of the sponsors treated the kids to product samplings and additional promos.

Canon Camera's exclusive Philippine distributor: Super East Asia, promises to bring more surprises in the remaining workshops. To date, next Saturday's scheduled activities will include mascots from Nestle Chocolait and Henlin. They would be posing with the participants as the workshop moves on to a hands-on shooting session.

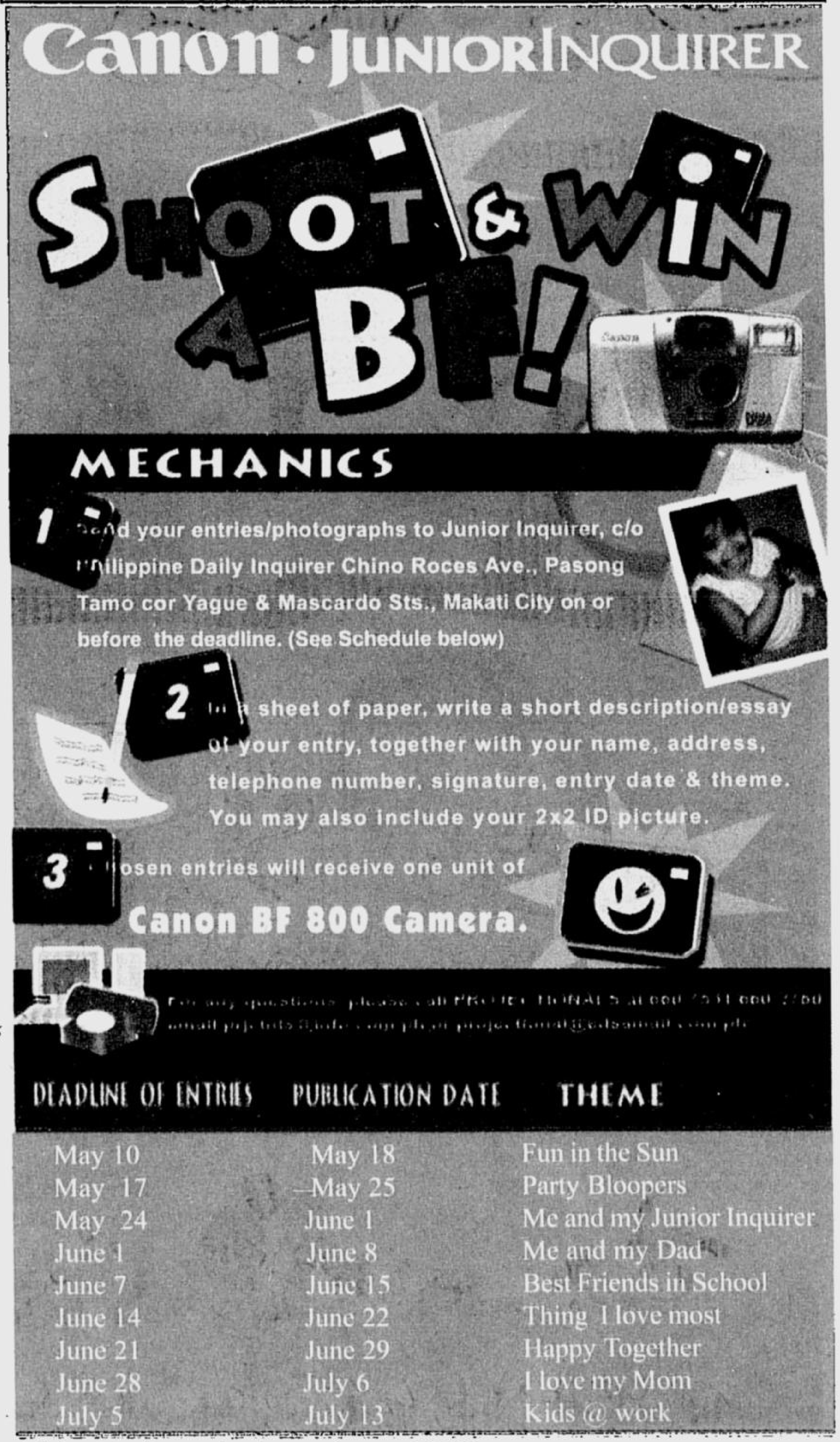


Look out Kid!

You could be missing on an chance to win a
BRAND NEW CANON CAMERA

Check the deadline of entries on the announcement below. We are now accepting pictures for both FUN IN THE SUN & PARTY BLOOPERS themes to be published on our May 25 issue. So submit your winning entries directly to the Philippine Daily Inquirer office c/o Masoy of the Marketing Department, NOW! Deadline for both themes have been moved to May 20, 2002.

SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.



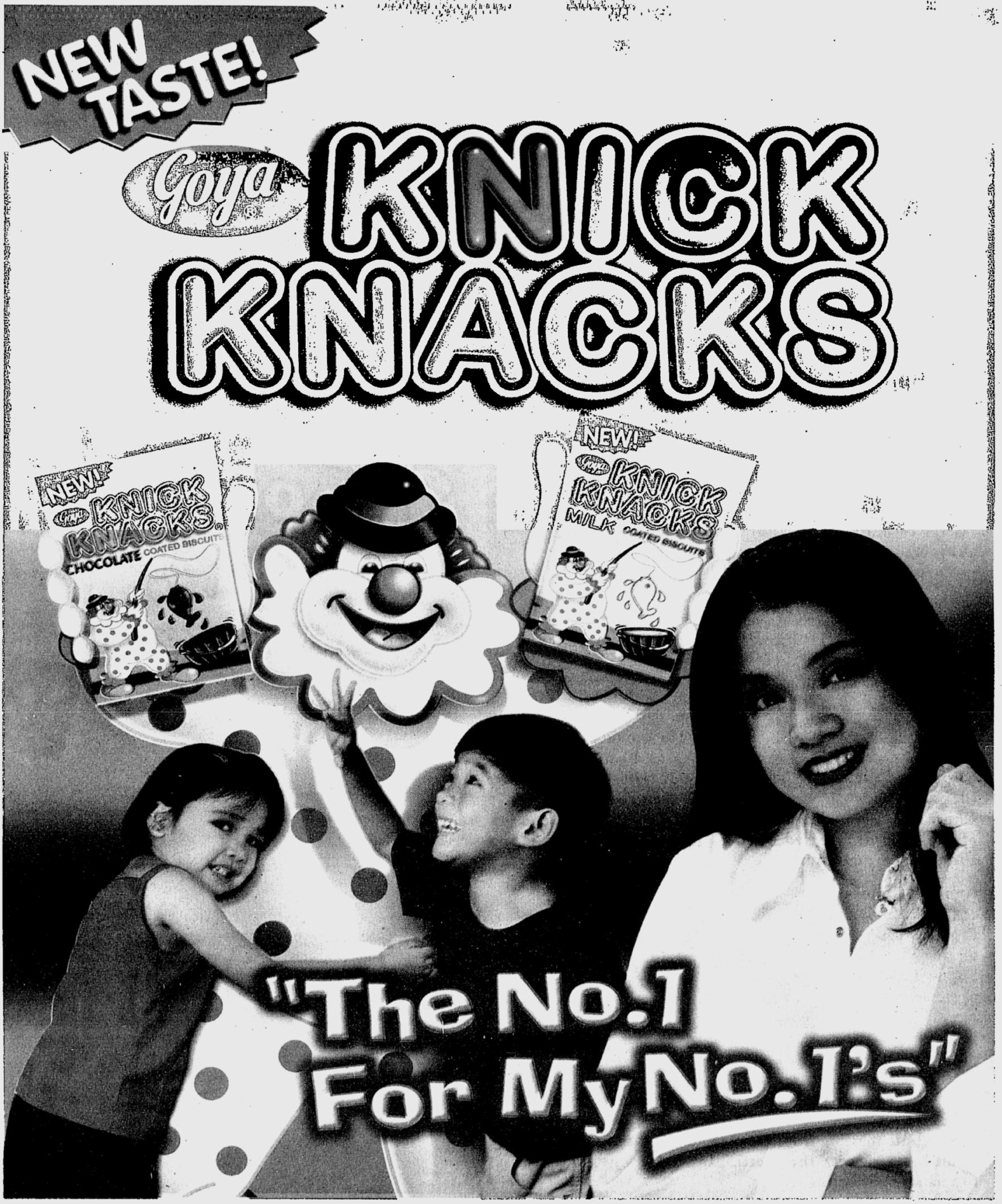
MECHANICS

1 Send your entries/photographs to Junior Inquirer, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Ave., Pasong Tamo cor Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City on or before the deadline. (See Schedule below)

2 On a sheet of paper, write a short description/essay of your entry, together with your name, address, telephone number, signature, entry date & theme. You may also include your 2x2 ID picture.

3 Chosen entries will receive one unit of **Canon BF 800 Camera.**

DEADLINE OF ENTRIES	PUBLICATION DATE	THEME
May 10	May 18	Fun in the Sun
May 17	May 25	Party Bloopers
May 24	June 1	Me and my Junior Inquirer
June 1	June 8	Me and my Dad
June 7	June 15	Best Friends in School
June 14	June 22	Thing I love most
June 21	June 29	Happy Together
June 28	July 6	I love my Mom
July 5	July 13	Kids @ work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